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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

HEARING HELD  
APRIL 21, 2011

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Hearing held, pursuant to Notice, on the 21st day  
of April, 2011, between the hours of 4:00 P.M. and  
6:30 P.M., at Peoria County Courthouse, 324 Main  
Street, County Board Room 403, Peoria, Illinois.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 PRESENT:

2 Representative Frank Mautino, Chairman

3 Representative Chapin Rose, Minority Spokesman

4 Representative Jehan Gordon

5 Representative David Leitch

6 Representative Keith Sommer

7 Representative Michael Unes

8 Representative Don Moffitt

9 Mr. Justin M. Cox, Assistant Counsel to the Speaker

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COURT REPORTER:

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1 (Hearing commenced at 4:07 P.M.)

2 REP. MAUTINO: Ladies and gentlemen, the  
3 hour of 4:00 o'clock having arrived, I'd like to call  
4 the -- thank you.

5 The hour of 4:00 o'clock having arrived,  
6 I'd like to call the House Special Committee on  
7 Redistricting to order.

8 My name is Frank Mautino, and I'm a member  
9 of the Redistricting Committee and will be chairing  
10 today's hearing. I would like to recognize the  
11 following members who are present with us today, and I  
12 appreciate them coming in to join with us. The Deputy  
13 Minority Leader of the House, David Leitch; Keith  
14 Sommer; Representative Chapin Rose; Representative  
15 Mike Unes; Representative Jehan Gordon have all joined  
16 with us, and we are expecting Representative Moffitt,  
17 who I believe was at the unveiling of the veterans'  
18 facility today. So he's on his way over now.

19 I'd like to welcome everyone who has  
20 joined with us today. Can you hear me over in the  
21 room over here? Are the mics okay?

22 At the end of 2010, the U.S. Census  
23 Bureau, as it does every decade, released its 2010  
24 population census totals for Illinois. The United

1 States and Illinois Constitution require that, in the  
2 year following the census, the General Assembly must  
3 redraw the boundary lines of the congressional,  
4 legislative, and representative districts to account  
5 for the population shifts over the last ten years.  
6 These hearings are part of that process.

7           The Redistricting and Transparency and  
8 Public Participation Act requires us to hold at least  
9 four hearings throughout the state. Our intention is  
10 to hold far more than that minimum number. Our goal  
11 is to hear from as many people as possible and to  
12 ensure this process is open to all residents of our  
13 state. We're holding hearings throughout the state --  
14 15 are currently scheduled -- to gain as much  
15 information as possible as we undertake this important  
16 task.

17           We're guided in this endeavor by the  
18 U.S. Constitution which requires that we respect the  
19 one-person, one-vote principle and draw districts of  
20 substantially equal population.

21           We also will comply with the federal  
22 Voting Rights Act which requires us to provide  
23 minorities an equal opportunity to participate in the  
24 electoral process and elect candidates of their

1 choice.

2 At the state level, the Illinois  
3 Constitution requires that districts be substantially  
4 equal in population, compact, and contiguous.

5 Finally, the Illinois Voting Rights Act  
6 further requires us to allow minorities a voice in the  
7 electoral process after compliance with the federal  
8 and constitutional requirements that I've just  
9 described.

10 Now, in addition to these requirements,  
11 there are countless other factors that play a role in  
12 the redistricting process, and we want to hear from  
13 you in considering all of them without limitation.  
14 We're interested any relevant demographic information  
15 such as social, political, economic, religious, or any  
16 other characteristics that are unique to your  
17 community or to your organizations. We're interested  
18 in maps of your community or organizations as  
19 encompassed by relevant precincts, voter tabulation  
20 districts, or however you want to present them. We  
21 want to hear your specific views on any social,  
22 political, economic, or religious interest commonly  
23 held in the community; any specific interest groups  
24 that exist; any concerns that you have regarding

1 current redistricting boundaries and suggestions for  
2 drawing of the new ones. In short, we want to hear  
3 any testimony that is relevant to the drawing of your  
4 new congressional, legislative, or representative  
5 districts.

6           If you have a proposed map, we will take  
7 it and consider it. If you want to draw your own map  
8 but lack the capacity to do so, we have created two  
9 public viewing stations where census and mapmaking  
10 resources will be made available. One is located in  
11 Springfield, in Room 401 of the Stratton Office  
12 Building. It's open Monday through Friday, from 8:30  
13 to 4:30 P.M. And the second workstation is a joint  
14 effort with the Senate Redistricting Committee. It's  
15 located on the seventh floor of the Bilandic Building  
16 and located at 160 North LaSalle Street in Chicago.  
17 You can schedule appointments to access either public  
18 station by calling 217.558.3036, and that number is  
19 also available on the information outside. And you  
20 may submit any information or comments to us by e-mail  
21 at [ilredistricting@gmail.com](mailto:ilredistricting@gmail.com).

22           We will transcribe the testimony of these  
23 hearings, and we will post that testimony on our  
24 website, [www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting). That



1 address is also on the table outside for you and will  
2 be part of the presentation.

3 Any documentary evidence that we receive,  
4 be it written testimony or other data or proposed  
5 maps, will also be uploaded on our website. Now, the  
6 only caveat is that, due to security concerns, we will  
7 not accept maps that are on discs or on flash drive.  
8 So we would ask that you provide a hard copy of that  
9 map.

10 As for today, we're going to begin with a  
11 short slide show presentation, and following that  
12 presentation, we'll have a number of witnesses who  
13 have indicated that they would like to testify today.  
14 So we have an agenda.

15 And, as I mentioned a little earlier,  
16 there are witness slips. For any of you that haven't  
17 filled that out, they're available from the staff.

18 After the scheduled witnesses, anyone else  
19 wishing to speak may do so. Every witness will have  
20 to fill out that slip and that will be part of our  
21 record.

22 And with that, we're prepared to begin  
23 today's presentations, but I am -- would like to  
24 welcome Representative Moffitt.

1 REP. MOFFITT: Good to be with you.

2 Thanks.

3 REP. MAUTINO: Thanks for joining with us.

4 And at this time I would ask the Minority  
5 Spokesman, Representative Chapin Rose, if he'd like to  
6 make some comments.

7 REP. ROSE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Welcome to our members of the public to  
9 this hearing of the House of Representatives  
10 Redistricting Committee. I appreciate the hospitality  
11 of our local hosts here. I live not too far away in  
12 the community of Mahomet right down I-74. So I'm  
13 happy to be here today.

14 We're very excited that we have an  
15 opportunity for far more statewide hearings for public  
16 input than the four that are required. However, I  
17 will say that, just as important as these hearings are  
18 on the front end to get your input, they are  
19 meaningless if we don't come back to you with a map  
20 before a vote. So one of the things, from our side of  
21 the aisle, which we would like to see is a second  
22 round of hearings. We'd bring the map to you, give  
23 you a chance to look at it, and get your comments on  
24 it publicly on the record before a vote occurs.

1           Secondly, any disclosure of a map should  
2 include all supporting documentation and a list of the  
3 criteria and criterion used to draw that map so that  
4 the public, as an issue of transparency, can  
5 understand how and what conditions were used to derive  
6 the drawing of the map.

7           And, lastly, that any -- that the -- any  
8 considerations of the new Illinois Voting Rights Act  
9 also be delineated so you can see, as members of the  
10 public, how the mandates of that act were used to --  
11 and implemented in the map.

12           So, again, we appreciate the opportunity  
13 here today. We're going to look forward to your  
14 testimony, but from our side of the aisle, we would  
15 very much like to be back here with a map so you can  
16 see it before the legislature would ever vote to it.

17           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18           REP. MAUTINO: Thank you, Representative  
19 Rose.

20           And wanted to thank Representative Unes  
21 and Gordon for hosting us in this facility. It's a  
22 wonderful setup for the meetings, and we appreciate  
23 the city and the county allowing us to hold them here  
24 today.

1                   We are going to go to a presentation. I'd  
2 like to ask Jon Maxson to join us. And if you'll look  
3 at the viewing screens, he's going to have a short  
4 presentation about the process and then specifically  
5 the impact of the census on us here.

6                   MR. MAXSON: Thank you for joining us this  
7 afternoon. My name is Jon Maxson. I work for the  
8 Illinois House of Representatives, and I'm here today  
9 to give you a brief overview of the state's  
10 redistricting procedure.

11                   I'll briefly discuss the procedures and  
12 backgrounds of redistricting and the information on  
13 the Voting Rights Act. I'll also be going over the  
14 new state redistricting guidelines recently signed  
15 into law. Finally, we'll look at the results of the  
16 2010 census and what those results say about your  
17 community.

18                   Redistricting is the process that ensures  
19 that all Illinois residents are afforded equal  
20 representation in the state legislature and federal  
21 congress as guaranteed by the United States  
22 Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court held in a series  
23 of rulings in the 1960s that congressional and state  
24 legislative districts in each state must be of equal

1 populations, establishing the principle of one person,  
2 one vote. As a result, states redraw congressional  
3 and state districts every ten years to reflect changes  
4 in population as shown by the census.

5           The time line for drawing the legislative  
6 map is based on the Illinois Constitution. On  
7 December 21st, data from the 2010 Census was delivered  
8 to the President. The full block-by-block census  
9 profile of Illinois, which will be used in the  
10 redistricting process, was released in February. The  
11 Illinois state legislature has the initial  
12 responsibility of passing the new congressional and  
13 state maps.

14           Both the state House and state Senate must  
15 pass a plan with majority votes. The plan must then  
16 be signed by the Governor. If a map does not go into  
17 effect by the constitutional deadline of June 30th,  
18 responsibility for creating a new map passes from the  
19 legislature and Governor to a Legislative  
20 Redistricting Commission.

21           The commission shall consist of eight  
22 members with no more than four from the same political  
23 party. A majority vote of five or more commission  
24 members will constitute a final approval of a map.

1                   However, if the commission does not agree  
2 to a map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court  
3 will submit two names, one from each party, to the  
4 Illinois Secretary of State, who will choose one name  
5 at random to served as the ninth member of the  
6 commission. Five of the nine members of the  
7 commission must agree to a plan by no later than  
8 October 5th.

9                   In order to understand how the census data  
10 is used to draw new districts, we must note several  
11 legal guiding principles. First among these is the  
12 equal population. State law mirrors the federal  
13 one-person, one-vote standard and mandates that  
14 congressional and state districts contain  
15 substantially equal population. As a result of the  
16 2010 Census, the target population for each House  
17 district is 108,734 residents, while an ideal  
18 population for a Senate district is 217,468 people.

19                   Federal and state law also require all  
20 districts to be contiguous, which means that all parts  
21 of all districts must be next to each other unless  
22 connected by water. Annexations and unincorporated  
23 areas in the municipalities and counties sometimes  
24 mean that communities are discontinuous. However,

1 congressional and state districts must be adjacent or  
2 connected at all points.

3           A more difficult requirement to define is  
4 compactness. There are at least 30 different  
5 scientific ways to measure how compact a district is,  
6 but there is no statute or court precedent which  
7 identifies a standard criteria of compactness. In  
8 theory, compactness focuses on the shape of the  
9 district's boundaries, how spread out a district is  
10 from a central core, or where the district's  
11 population "center of gravity" is. In practice,  
12 compactness is hindered by geography and on-the-ground  
13 realities. So often the interpretation of compactness  
14 involves more than a visual test.

15           Illinois is one of 14 states that nests  
16 two of its House districts, also called representative  
17 districts, inside one of its Senate districts, also  
18 called legislative districts.

19           Mapmakers will also look, where possible,  
20 to follow existing political and geographic boundaries  
21 in ways that maximize a community's opportunity to  
22 have its interests represented. As we know, however,  
23 county, municipality, township, and natural geographic  
24 boundaries are not always compact and contiguous.

1 By studying census data and holding public  
2 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of  
3 residents across the state, lawmakers look to identify  
4 what are known as "communities of interest." A  
5 community of interest is a group of people  
6 concentrated in a geographic area who are socially,  
7 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously, or  
8 otherwise alike and can be joined together in a  
9 district to most effectively have their voices heard.  
10 The factors contributing to any particular community  
11 of interest will vary throughout the state.

12 Federal law requires redistricting plans  
13 to respect minority representation. The principles of  
14 the federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent  
15 the reduction of opportunity for minority populations  
16 to participate equally in the electoral process.  
17 However, districts cannot be drawn solely on the basis  
18 of race.

19 Earlier this year, Governor Quinn signed  
20 legislation to protect the representation of racial  
21 and language minority groups. Senate Bill 3976 helps  
22 to prevent minority fracturing, or dividing a  
23 concentration of minorities among two or more  
24 districts, by requiring mapmakers to consider the



1 creation of crossover districts, coalition districts,  
2 and influence districts.

3 A crossover district is one in which a  
4 large minority group may elect the candidate of its  
5 choice with the help of the majority group.

6 A coalition district brings together  
7 multiple racial or language minority groups to elect a  
8 candidate of its choice.

9 An influence district allows a group to  
10 influence the outcome of an election without being the  
11 majority population in that district.

12 The new state law comes into play only  
13 after compliance with federal law and the U.S. State  
14 Constitution -- U.S. and State constitutional  
15 requirements on redistricting. In addition, the law  
16 ensures transparency by requiring public hearings  
17 across the state, one of which we are having right  
18 now. These hearings will provide an opportunity for  
19 residents to share their thoughts on the redistricting  
20 process, a key component to creating a map that best  
21 represents the people of Illinois.

22 At the end of the presentation, we will  
23 display an e-mail address on the screen where you can  
24 submit your ideas for consideration. The committee is

1 also accepting written testimony and documentation  
2 today.

3 So now I've covered the redistricting  
4 process. Let's take a look at what census data will  
5 be used to draw the new districts. All of the maps  
6 you're going to see are drawn by using a census block,  
7 which is the smallest level of geography the  
8 U.S. Census Bureau uses to report population data.

9 As of the 2010 Census, the total  
10 population of the state of Illinois is 12,830,632 as  
11 compared to the state's 2000 population of 12,419,293,  
12 an increase of 410,000 people. The counties with the  
13 largest population by percentage increase since 2000  
14 are Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, and Will counties.

15 Demographically speaking, Illinois has  
16 seen a lot of change over the last decade. The white  
17 population has risen statewide by .06 percent to  
18 8,167,753.

19 Illinois' African-American population has  
20 fallen statewide by .6 percent to 1,832,924.

21 Illinois' Hispanic population, however,  
22 has risen statewide by 32.5 percent to a total of  
23 2,027,578.

24 Illinois' Asian population has also risen

1 by 38.6 percent to 580,586 people statewide.

2 Let's have a look at the Peoria metro  
3 area. In 2000, the area's population was 149,257  
4 people, losing only 234 people over the last decade.  
5 In the last ten years, the area's population has  
6 decreased to 149,023 in Peoria and the surrounding  
7 cities of West Peoria, Peoria Heights, and East  
8 Peoria.

9 The 2010 Census reports that the  
10 African-American population is 31,919, an increase of  
11 3,370 people since the 2000 Census.

12 The Hispanic population in Peoria was 64  
13 thousand -- 6,457 people at the end of the 2010  
14 Census. That is an increase of 3,124 people since  
15 2000.

16 The 2010 Census also showed an Asian  
17 population of 5,559 people, an increase of 2,634  
18 people since 2000.

19 The minority population in the Peoria  
20 region has increased despite the overall loss of  
21 population. We see the changes more clearly in the  
22 city of Peoria which experienced an increase in  
23 African-American population of 10.5 percent, a gain in  
24 Hispanic population of about 98 percent, and a

1 doubling of its Asian residents.

2           The city of Peoria's total population  
3 increased by less than 2 percent. A similar change  
4 occurred in Peoria Heights where there is a total  
5 population loss of more than 7 percent but an increase  
6 in African-American and Hispanic residents.

7           Thank you very much for coming to today's  
8 hearing and sharing your thoughts and opinions with  
9 us. If you have any comments, you can e-mail us at  
10 ilredistricting@gmail.com or visit our website which  
11 is on the screen for more information.

12           Thank you.

13           REP. MAUTINO: Thank you, Jon.

14           It's our intent now to go to public  
15 testimony and comment. We have a number of people who  
16 have scheduled. So we'll go to the agenda first, and  
17 then we have quite a few people who are seeking  
18 comments. We will hear from all of you.

19           And I would ask that you try and keep your  
20 testimony to five minutes or less. And since these  
21 are being transcribed by a court reporter, when you  
22 join us at the podium up front, which is the point  
23 where you'll be speaking at, please state your name  
24 clearly and would you please spell it for our court

1 reporter to make things a little bit easier.

2 We'll first hear from Allen Mayer, Peoria  
3 County Board.

4 Welcome, Mr. Mayer. If you would state  
5 your name and spell it for our court reporter and then  
6 proceed.

7 MR. MAYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
8 That's what I get for showing up early -- I get to go  
9 first.

10 My name is Allen, A-l-l-e-n, Mayer,  
11 M-a-y-e-r. I am a member of the Peoria County Board,  
12 but I'm not testifying on behalf of the county board  
13 just to make that clear.

14 I submitted a couple of pages of written  
15 testimony for the record, and rather than simply read  
16 it all to you, I wanted to just take a few moments to  
17 thank you for holding the hearing. I know almost  
18 everybody up here on the panel, and I know you're all  
19 serious, hard-working legislators, and welcome to our  
20 county board chambers where we do our business.

21 In my written testimony, I have three  
22 basic points that I want to make. The first is  
23 picking up on the presentation that was just made by  
24 staff talking about the protection of African-American

1 voting rights in the Peoria area, the second is  
2 preserving the diversity in our local legislative  
3 districts, and the third is considering including a  
4 part of the Peoria-Pekin area in a second  
5 congressional district.

6 Rather than read all of this to you, let  
7 me simply point out that, as you just saw in the  
8 presentation about census data in the Peoria area, we  
9 have a very large and growing African-American  
10 population. However, it is not sufficiently large  
11 that it would constitute a majority of a state House  
12 district. Therefore, the federal Voting Rights Act  
13 wouldn't kick in.

14 But because of the Illinois Voting Rights  
15 Act of 2011 requiring the creat -- or giving a  
16 preference for the creation of influence, crossover,  
17 and coalition districts, I think this is the perfect  
18 example of something that that act was intended to  
19 correct -- namely, there is a large enough minority  
20 population that they can have an influence, especially  
21 through the Democratic primary and then through  
22 crossover voting of the white Democrats in the general  
23 election, to where the African-American population in  
24 the city of Peoria is a large enough group that its

1 voting rights should be protected under the new state  
2 law.

3           The second point I wanted to touch on is  
4 something that came up repeatedly at the Senate's  
5 Redistricting Committee hearing last Saturday, which  
6 is that generally folks in the Peoria area are very  
7 pleased with the fact that we are divided up. I know  
8 you go to different parts of the state and people say  
9 don't divide us anymore. Well, in the Peoria area,  
10 we're pretty pleased with the fact that we have  
11 multiple senators, multiple representatives  
12 representing us. That came up time and again. We're  
13 happy to have strong representatives in each of the  
14 four legislative caucuses.

15           And, quite frankly, as I discuss in my  
16 written remarks, we have very different communities of  
17 interest throughout the Peoria area, and one of the  
18 things that I urge you to look at -- again, going back  
19 to the presentation we just had, when you look at  
20 communities of interest in our area, I think you  
21 should be looking at socioeconomic, racial, and  
22 political preference data to figure out who are the  
23 folks whose interests match up. Someone from  
24 Bartonville has a lot more in common with someone from

1 Pekin or East Peoria, for instance, than someone from  
2 Sommer Place or WeaverRidge, even though they might  
3 both be in the same county. I think that someone up  
4 in the northern part of the city of Peoria has more in  
5 common with someone across the river over in Woodford  
6 County in Germantown Hills than they do with someone  
7 from the south side.

8           So when you're looking at the communities  
9 of interest for the legislative districts, I'd urge  
10 you to not look just at the city and the county  
11 boundaries but instead look -- dig into that census  
12 data. Look at the socioeconomic data and the  
13 backgrounds of the folks.

14           So that's my concerns about the  
15 legislative districts.

16           And, then, finally, the third point is  
17 that -- picking up on that diverse communities of  
18 interest in our area. Back in the 1980s, the  
19 Peoria-Pekin area actually supported two congressional  
20 districts. People may not remember this, but the 17th  
21 Congressional District came down and took in most of  
22 the geography of Peoria County, and then the 18th  
23 Congressional District started in the city of Peoria  
24 and went around.



1           For two decades now we haven't had that;  
2 we've been consolidated in one congressional district.  
3 I think that we are large enough and we are a diverse  
4 enough area that we really should be entitled to a  
5 second congressional district in the area.

6           I think that, for instance, Rock Island  
7 and Galesburg have a lot more in common with  
8 Bartonville and Pekin and East Peoria than sometimes  
9 they do with the wealthier, whiter, more affluent  
10 areas of the rest of the 18th Congressional District.  
11 You could cut across the other way and say we have  
12 more in common with Decatur. The folks in northern  
13 Peoria have more in common with folks over in  
14 Bloomington-Normal or the west part of the city of  
15 Springfield, for instance. And I outline some of that  
16 in my remarks.

17           But those are the three points that I want  
18 you to take away: make sure that you protect  
19 African-American voting rights in the city of Peoria,  
20 preserve the diversity that we have here in our local  
21 legislative districts, and please consider adding a  
22 second congressional district in our area.

23           I'd be happy to answer any questions from  
24 the committee, including my dear friend Chapin.

1 REP. MAUTINO: At this time do we have any  
2 questions from the members of the committee?

3 Representative Rose.

4 REP. ROSE: Dear friend Chapin.

5 Hi, Allen. How you doing?

6 MR. MAYER: Very good, sir.

7 REP. ROSE: Let me ask you something. You  
8 mentioned the African-American population and wanting  
9 to keep it intact. There was mention in the slide  
10 there's a significant Latino community as well.

11 Would you suggest that that would be  
12 better kept intact with -- would you add those two  
13 together into a single district?

14 MR. MAYER: The Latino population is  
15 growing in the Peoria area. It is not yet as  
16 statistically significant as the African-American  
17 population.

18 Part of the history that I go into in the  
19 written remarks is that actually some of the local  
20 governments here are operating under a consent decree  
21 under the federal Voting Rights Act where there has,  
22 in fact, been a finding of past discrimination against  
23 African-Americans. We don't have the same history  
24 with Latino voters.

1           The other thing that -- because the  
2 presentation just focused on the metro areas, if it  
3 had gone just outside the city of Peoria, as you're  
4 heading up the interstate there -- and the folks on  
5 the county board know about this, and you'll hopefully  
6 be hearing from my fellow county board member Carol  
7 Trumpe, who represents the 15th District -- huge  
8 explosion of growth out there and a huge explosion of  
9 Asian-American population out there. Carol's district  
10 is now probably more than 10 percent Asian-American,  
11 and when we redraw, it will probably be about that  
12 too. Again, doesn't have quite the same history, but  
13 it's something that we need to monitor.

14           REP. ROSE: Again, I guess, to my  
15 question. Is that -- would you suggest lumping those  
16 all into one district?

17           MR. MAYER: I think that, if you looked  
18 and you could flash up the Hispanic and the African-  
19 American areas, there's a significant overlap. In my  
20 remarks, I discuss within the city of Peoria south of  
21 McClure is the biggest concentration. That's also  
22 where you find the most significant concentration of  
23 Hispanics.

24           REP. ROSE: One other question, and we

1 mentioned this in our opening statement from our side  
2 of the aisle. But you've noted a number of different  
3 things and, you know, three specifically that have a  
4 pretty interesting discussion. Would you want us to  
5 bring you back a map to Peoria County before we voted  
6 on it?

7 MR. MAYER: Well, you know, if you want to  
8 come to my house, Chapin, I'd love to have you.

9 REP. ROSE: Not you specifically.

10 MR. MAYER: But, no, not being --

11 REP. ROSE: People of Peoria.

12 MR. MAYER: -- not being smart -- and I'm  
13 being colloquial with Representative Rose because we  
14 know each other from college and so --

15 I think that the month of May is going to  
16 be a very difficult month for the General Assembly  
17 dealing with the budget and everything else.

18 Yes, it would be great if you could, but I  
19 can understand that you're pressed for time. I would  
20 expect that it will -- like any piece of legislation,  
21 it will be thrown up on the Internet and that there  
22 will be an opportunity for us to look at it, analyze  
23 it, and submit comments electronically. And if that's  
24 all that we can do, then that's all that can be done

1 in the time frame, and I understand that.

2 But I do expect -- this was a big topic of  
3 conversation at the Senate Redistricting Committee,  
4 and I know that Chairman Raoul has committed to at  
5 least two hearings, one in Chicago and one downstate  
6 presumably in Springfield. So I know that there are  
7 some efforts that, when the map gets unveiled, there  
8 will be opportunities.

9 REP. ROSE: You would think that some  
10 period of time of public transparency would be  
11 critical.

12 MR. MAYER: I think some period of  
13 transparency is important, but I don't know that a  
14 hearing like this is crucial or as crucial as making  
15 the map available online so it can be analyzed and so  
16 that you can, in fact, comment on it.

17 We do a lot here with the county -- when  
18 we have large controversial things like landfills, we  
19 get more comments that come in through the website  
20 than we do folks showing up and standing where I am.

21 REP. ROSE: And you mentioned you had  
22 written comments. Will you make sure those get  
23 submitted?

24 MR. MAYER: I submitted them to the clerk,

1 and they were going to -- indicate that they were  
2 copying them.

3 Thank you, Representative.

4 REP. MAUTINO: Further questions?

5 Thank you very much, Allen.

6 MR. MAYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 REP. MAUTINO: Also from the county board,  
8 Robert Baietto.

9 UNIDENTIFIED: He's not here.

10 REP. MAUTINO: Steve Morris from the  
11 county board as well.

12 Mr. Morris, would you join us at the front  
13 podium. Please state your name and also appropriate  
14 spelling for our court reporter.

15 MR. MORRIS: I will. Thank you.

16 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for joining us.

17 MR. MORRIS: It's Stephen, S-t-e-p-h-e-n,  
18 Morris, M-o-r-r-i-s. I am on the Peoria County Board.  
19 I have been for two years. I appreciate the  
20 opportunity to speak here today. Thank you for  
21 holding this and allowing folks to come speak.

22 I think one of the reasons that I'm here  
23 is because I serve with Mr. Mayer on the county's  
24 redistricting committee, and I would preface by saying

1 be very careful about asking him if he'd like to look  
2 at it because he really, really enjoys this stuff.  
3 He's good at it, and he really enjoys it. So he'll  
4 take you up on it.

5           The main reason that I'm here today is  
6 because I want to encourage you. I've not been in  
7 public life that long, and what I've learned is that  
8 the trust and the confidence that the public has or  
9 does not have in county boards and legislatures and  
10 things of that nature is based upon these type of  
11 events.

12           As you move forward into this, I realize  
13 that partisanship is a huge issue. It's the elephant  
14 in the room, and anyone that says that it isn't is  
15 being dishonest with themselves. It is a huge issue.  
16 But for the confidence that the public needs in these  
17 bodies, you have to make the process transparent. You  
18 have to let people know what you're doing and be able  
19 to articulate why you're doing it. And, most  
20 importantly, I understand that there's a litany of  
21 cases of must be compact, must be contiguous, must be  
22 racially sensitive. I understand all those things.  
23 But I would encourage you to be very cautious as you  
24 go about the redistricting.

1                   When you have a district that -- and I  
2 refer to it as the rabbit on a skateboard. When you  
3 have a district that looks like a rabbit on a  
4 skateboard, it doesn't instill confidence in the  
5 public that you're doing anything other than trying to  
6 job the system to either maintain your position or  
7 maintain a certain number on this side of the aisle or  
8 on that side of the aisle.

9                   People come up to me as part of the  
10 redistricting -- and I've gotten as many calls about  
11 redistricting as I have on any other thing that I've  
12 done on the county board. They want to know the  
13 process is fair, and they want to know that the  
14 process is open, and they want to know that Allen and  
15 I and the rest of the members of that committee are  
16 doing something other than trying to protect our own  
17 position on the county board or trying to protect a  
18 certain balance between Republicans and Democrats.

19                   We here in Peoria and in the Peoria  
20 area -- I consider us to be extremely lucky. We have  
21 a group of legislators that work together. We have an  
22 annual legislative breakfast. They all attend. They  
23 all participate. We're extremely lucky that we have a  
24 group that work as well together as they do for the



1 area. I don't necessarily know that's true in other  
2 areas of the state.

3 So I just -- I don't have all the case law  
4 like Allen has. What I do have and what I listen to  
5 is the pulse of the public, and that is that they want  
6 to feel like the process is fair, the process is  
7 transparent, and that you're engaging in something  
8 other than an exercise of protecting your own  
9 positions, and I encourage you to take that to heart.

10 Sometimes, when I'm sitting around here --  
11 and I actually sit where Representative Sommer sits  
12 normally for the county. When I'm sitting there,  
13 sometimes I forget that the people that are up here  
14 talking have a different perspective than I do on the  
15 county board. So I just encourage you to remember the  
16 perspective of the average citizen who thinks about  
17 this.

18 I would also say please publish whatever  
19 your plan is at least two weeks in advance of any vote  
20 on it. Let the public see the plan, and let the  
21 public comment on it.

22 I thank you for holding this today. I  
23 thank you for listening to my comments. I appreciate  
24 you being here. Good luck in the process.

1 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you, Mr. Morris.

2 MR. MORRIS: Thanks.

3 REP. MAUTINO: Chapin, any questions?

4 Thank you for your comments.

5 Next we'll hear from the Tri-County Urban  
6 League and representative Lonnie Whisker.

7 Please join us at the front podium; and,  
8 as I'll say each time, please spell your name for the  
9 court reporter so we can get an accurate record.  
10 Thank you for taking the time to join us today.

11 MR. WHISKER: Good evening. My name is  
12 Lonnie Whisker, L-o-n-n-i-e W-h-i-s-k-e-r, and I'm  
13 representing the Tri-County Urban League, a nonprofit  
14 organization established in 1965.

15 Since then we've been one of the community  
16 cornerstones for education, economic empowerment,  
17 social -- to improve the social well-being of  
18 African-American and similarly disadvantaged people,  
19 but we strive for inclusion regardless of race, age,  
20 gender, national origin, disability, or creed.

21 I'm here to highlight not only our  
22 organization but the clients we serve, the needs,  
23 while we dialogue about this serious issue. We serve  
24 a host of people of -- with various goals, with

1 various concerns, issues, needs, struggles, and who  
2 need to be heard.

3 Many of you have heard of Whitney M.  
4 Young. He was the executive director of the National  
5 Urban League from '61 to '71, and he was also a  
6 contemporary of Martin Luther King. He said this:  
7 "I'm not anxious to be the loudest voice or the most  
8 popular. But I would like to think that at a crucial  
9 moment I was an effective voice of the voiceless, an  
10 effective hope of the hopeless."

11 Young and old, the Tri-County Peoria Urban  
12 League for over 45 years have been serving a variety  
13 of people, especially the voiceless and the hopeless.  
14 As we discuss this issue, I just want to underscore  
15 that our organization serves people who need to have  
16 fair and balanced representation to safeguard and  
17 speak to their needs as well.

18 Thank you very much.

19 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
20 comments, sir.

21 Do we have any questions?

22 Representative Chapin Rose.

23 REP. ROSE: Thank you.

24 Mr. Whisker, would you -- as part of your

1 comments, I would presume you'd like to see a map  
2 before it's voted on.

3 MR. WHISKER: That would be nice.

4 REP. ROSE: And would you concur with the  
5 previous speaker who suggested sort of a two-week time  
6 period, maybe, for public inspection? Or at least  
7 something more than 48 hours.

8 MR. WHISKER: Yeah, it would be nice to  
9 review it, contemplate, and observe what's being  
10 decided on more than 48 hours.

11 REP. ROSE: Do you -- as consistent with  
12 your organization's goals, do you think that, in  
13 discussing this community of interest topic that the  
14 opening speaker talked about -- I don't want put words  
15 in your mouth, but would you --

16 MR. WHISKER: Don't do it.

17 REP. ROSE: Yeah. So I'm going to ask a  
18 question. So would it be better to keep the  
19 African-American community together, or would it be  
20 better to try to cut that up and put it among several?  
21 Would you try to go for influence districts, or would  
22 you rather stay together as a community?

23 MR. WHISKER: Because I'm also speaking on  
24 behalf of the CEO of our organization, is there a way

1 I could e-mail you that answer?

2 REP. ROSE: Absolutely. Actually, let me  
3 refer that question to the chairman, but I think there  
4 would be a public comment opportunity separately.

5 REP. MAUTINO: I was going to say on  
6 the -- any of the comments would be available actually  
7 on the website which is right up here.

8 REP. ROSE: I mean, I think that's a very  
9 critical question that needs to be answered because,  
10 depending on which of the different models you adopt,  
11 you could end up with a very different outlook for  
12 that community.

13 MR. WHISKER: Could you relay the question  
14 again, please?

15 REP. ROSE: Sure. I'll tell you what. In  
16 the interest of time, I'll get it to you --

17 MR. WHISKER: Okay. Good.

18 REP. MAUTINO: And I'll make sure that  
19 staff gets you that -- the number for the information.

20 Any of your testimony too that you have  
21 written, if you'd like to turn it in to the clerk, it  
22 will all be uploaded on this website and be available  
23 for public inspection.

24 MR. WHISKER: Great. Thank you.

1 REP. MAUTINO: Further questions?

2 Thank you for your comments, sir.

3 Next we'll hear from Donald R. Jackson,  
4 and Mr. Jackson is here representing the NAACP.

5 Thank you for joining with us. Please  
6 join us at the podium, state your name, and spell it  
7 for our court reporter.

8 MR. JACKSON: Yes. My name is Donald R.  
9 Jackson, D-o-n-a-l-d, middle initial R., last name  
10 Jackson, J-a-c-k-s-o-n.

11 Many of you may have heard -- I've  
12 prepared my remarks and perhaps some of you may have  
13 already heard similar remarks from NAACP  
14 representatives around the state, and so I will read  
15 the remarks and submit them to the record and  
16 certainly try to answer any questions that you may  
17 have.

18 My name is Donald R. Jackson. I'm a  
19 member of the Peoria branch of the NAACP, and I'm here  
20 today to represent the NAACP Illinois State Conference  
21 as well, in addition to its 37 branches throughout the  
22 state of Illinois. For the record, I am president of  
23 the Illinois State Conference as well as the Peoria  
24 branch.

1           Like others in this room, we are extremely  
2 concerned with the redistricting process. Allow me to  
3 proceed by stating that we do believe that the  
4 Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 is a promise of a  
5 fair redistricting process for all racial minorities  
6 if it is properly implemented. We have read the  
7 Illinois Voting Rights Act to require the legislature  
8 to create a crossover, coalition, or influence  
9 district where it is not feasible to create a  
10 majority-minority district and where doing so  
11 otherwise -- is otherwise consistent with other  
12 redistricting edicts and the United States  
13 Constitution.

14           The NAACP's position is the Illinois  
15 Voting Rights Act serves as a protection against the  
16 gerrymandering of the black vote. Thus our first  
17 minimum prerequisite for a fair redistricting process  
18 is that the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 be  
19 followed.

20           However, for a vote to be meaningful, it  
21 must also be effective; and as stated by the  
22 African-Americans for Legislative Redistricting, a  
23 vote is only as effective as the boundaries of the  
24 district in which it is cast. We too believe the 2001

1 mapping was effective for African-American voters in  
2 Illinois and, in most instances, agree that it should  
3 be maintained.

4           However, the 2001 map did help to produce  
5 the first black state Senate president in Illinois  
6 history, and it did create the district from which  
7 Barack Obama launched his U.S. Senate campaign, which,  
8 in turn, made his presidency possible. And therefore  
9 it is also our position that this map is something to  
10 be proud of and that works not only for African-  
11 Americans but it works well for the state of Illinois  
12 as a whole and has an impact as well nationally.

13           Under the 2001 map, black state  
14 legislators have chaired important committees such as  
15 insurance, elementary and secondary education  
16 appropriations, small business empowerment and  
17 workforce, housing, financial institutions, revenue,  
18 health and human services, and pensions and  
19 investments. Throughout the past decade, many of  
20 the hundreds of bills sponsored by African-American  
21 legislators -- our own legislator being one of  
22 those -- have had a particular focus and impact on the  
23 minor community throughout Illinois.

24           I would like to conclude my testimony with



1 this, by remarking on two other concerns. First, we  
2 understand that it is a practice in Illinois to count  
3 prison inmates as residents of the localities in which  
4 they are imprisoned. Because blacks and Latinos  
5 constitute a disproportionately high share of the state  
6 and federal prison population in Illinois and other  
7 places in the United States, we believe this practice  
8 is harmful to minority interests in the redistricting  
9 process.

10 Therefore, another minimum prerequisite  
11 for fair redistricting is to count inmates as  
12 residents of the locality from which they have come  
13 and to which most of them return. This is the current  
14 practice in other large racially diverse states such  
15 as Maryland and New York. It is inequitable to return  
16 them to communities without the resources to assist  
17 them in a successful reintegration which proves  
18 harmful to all of the residents in these communities  
19 and ultimately our society as a whole, and we strongly  
20 urge this policy to be changed.

21 Finally, although we are -- we too are  
22 aware that the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 does  
23 not expressly apply to congressional redistricting, we  
24 assert that the same discretion afforded to the states

1 does apply to congressional redistricting as well. We  
2 believe, as a final minimal prerequisite for fair  
3 redistricting, that the legislature should apply the  
4 basic framework of the Illinois Voting Rights Act to  
5 its congressional redistricting.

6 The NAACP is looking forward to  
7 participating in future hearings, and I thank you for  
8 your time.

9 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

10 MR. JACKSON: I'll submit the comments for  
11 the record.

12 REP. MAUTINO: I'd ask if you could  
13 include your testimony with the clerk.

14 And do we have questions from members of  
15 the committee?

16 Mr. Rose.

17 REP. ROSE: Thank you, Mr. Jackson, for  
18 your testimony.

19 I'll start with the question we asked  
20 everybody to now. I'd assume that as president of the  
21 statewide organization you would want to see a map and  
22 have some time to understand how a potential map would  
23 impact your organization's members before it would be  
24 passed. Is that a safe assumption?

1 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, I don't think there's  
2 any question about that. We have discussed it at our  
3 state meetings and throughout the state of Illinois.  
4 I think you'll hear the same request.

5 REP. ROSE: Okay. I was at last night's  
6 hearing at Chicago State University on the south side,  
7 and here in this part of the state, we probably would  
8 not get to a max-min situation under -- under U.S.  
9 jurisprudence so the Illinois Voting Rights Act would  
10 kick in. But I heard you say you're president of the  
11 statewide organization. To your organization, what is  
12 more important? The max-min or following the IVRA? I  
13 mean --

14 MR. JACKSON: Following the Illinois  
15 Voting Rights Act, yes.

16 REP. ROSE: All right. And I thought of  
17 this yesterday, and I don't know that I had -- I don't  
18 know that it was necessarily a fair question because  
19 it took the speaker by surprise, but it also -- I  
20 thought of it as I was sitting there yesterday.

21 So my district comes up to about --  
22 current district comes up to about 15 miles from  
23 Indiana state line. If someone from Indiana came into  
24 Illinois and were to cook crystal methamphetamine, get

1 caught and go to prison in Illinois for, you know,  
2 cooking/distributing crystal meth, under the  
3 legislation that you urge with respect to the prison  
4 inmates, how would you deal with someone from out of  
5 state? How would you deal with someone who, you know,  
6 is a drifter? Someone who doesn't have a community?  
7 I mean, how would you --

8 MR. JACKSON: In other words, keep money  
9 in Illinois.

10 REP. ROSE: Well, no. I'm just asking the  
11 question. It is a very real -- because one of the  
12 problems -- and I ran -- in fact, President Obama was  
13 the Senate sponsor of my first bill as a legislator as  
14 a House member which was to get tough on crystal meth  
15 because 40 percent of the Coles County jail when I  
16 came in office was crystal meth related and a big chunk  
17 of that were people from Indiana coming in because at  
18 the time our state laws were less than Indiana's  
19 criminal laws. So, I mean, how would you deal with  
20 somebody who committed a crime here but wasn't from  
21 here? How would we deal with that address?

22 MR. JACKSON: Well, that's a good --  
23 that's an interesting question.

24 REP. ROSE: And, again -- and I'm catching

1 you by surprise too, and I just thought of it  
2 yesterday. So if you want to get back to us, that  
3 would be fine.

4 MR. JACKSON: Well, I'd like to do that,  
5 but just off the top of my head, I would say I'd have  
6 to be consistent; and if, for example, somebody from  
7 Chicago was incarcerated in Pekin, Illinois, I don't  
8 necessarily think Pekin ought to be the benefactor of  
9 funds that ought to go to his home community so that,  
10 when he goes back for reinvestment into his own  
11 community, there will be funds there to help that  
12 person in his future growth in that community.

13 So if I want to be consistent, I would  
14 guess I'd have to say that Indiana ought to get the  
15 money if a person comes from Indiana. But I would  
16 like to give that some thought because you did catch  
17 me by surprise, but that's all right.

18 REP ROSE: No problem. Thank you for your  
19 answers.

20 MR. JACKSON: Not a problem.

21 REP. MAUTINO: Further questions?

22 Thank you for your comments, sir.

23 Next we will hear from Bernie Miller, who  
24 is the president of the Center Bluff Neighborhood

1 Association.

2 Welcome, Mr. Miller. Please state your  
3 name for our court reporter and spell it  
4 appropriately.

5 MR. MILLER: My name is Bernie Miller,  
6 B-e-r-n-i-e M-i-l-l-e-r.

7 I don't mind saying this is the first time  
8 I've ever done something like this.

9 REP. MAUTINO: Well, we're glad that you  
10 did. Welcome.

11 MR. MILLER: I think one thing that we  
12 need to take a look at is how the state of Iowa has  
13 handled their redistricting. If you look at their  
14 maps, which it's all on the Internet -- and, of  
15 course, everybody can get to that -- it's done much  
16 more by county, township lines, and to look at it, it  
17 makes sense that areas are represented because of the  
18 geographic boundaries. Now, they specifically forbid  
19 the use of political affiliation, the previous  
20 election results, the addresses of the incumbents, and  
21 demographics of the population. Does that make it all  
22 simple and cut and dried? I'm not sure, but I think  
23 it's something we need to take a look at.

24 Having these districts that scatter all

1 over and, you know, twisting around, up and down, back  
2 and forth to take in different groups, there are  
3 different reasons. They probably make sense to some  
4 people for their own reasons, but it doesn't make  
5 sense for the whole picture.

6 And I'll just leave it at that. I think  
7 we need to look at what Iowa has done, and it works  
8 there. I realize, you know, we're a whole different  
9 setup in ways, having population concentrated in the  
10 Chicago area and down around St. Louis area maybe much  
11 more so than they are.

12 So I just want to leave it at that. Thank  
13 you.

14 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
15 comments.

16 Questions?

17 Thank you, sir, for joining with us.

18 Next we'll hear from Charles Gabbert,  
19 president of the Lynnhurst Homeowners Association.

20 Welcome, Mr. Gabbert.

21 MR. GABBERT: Thank you.

22 REP. MAUTINO: Please address the court  
23 reporter.

24 MR. GABBERT: All right. I guess this is

1 working.

2 I'm Charles Gabbert. That's C-h-a-r-l-e-s  
3 G-a-b-b-e-r-t, and I'm from the Lynnhurst Homeowners  
4 Association.

5 And we've had a long history in Illinois,  
6 as some of you are well aware, of gerrymandering. We  
7 have a district now that runs from Rock Island down  
8 to -- clear over to Decatur in a nice narrow margin.  
9 And this was -- this was done for political purposes  
10 and everybody knew it. And I think that -- that we  
11 have -- we have a responsibility to try and do this  
12 thing right.

13 And, you know, when you're in the majority  
14 and you're running the show, you can do whatever the  
15 heck you want to do. You know, you can -- you can  
16 make a district that runs from Chicago to East St.  
17 Louis and it's a highway wide if you want to. But  
18 sooner or later somebody else gets in charge, and then  
19 they do the same thing running their way. And it  
20 ought to be -- we ought to be doing this thing right  
21 and in a fair way.

22 And there is -- there is an old saying  
23 that these things should be contiguous. They should  
24 be -- they should be as compact as they can be, not as



1 spread out as they can be. And they should -- they  
2 should represent the people in the area. They  
3 shouldn't be representing the people that are 200  
4 miles away. It should be -- and if you can -- the  
5 people in Peoria and Peoria County are a great group.  
6 They fit together very well, and they do try to do  
7 things in the right way, but they don't have a lot in  
8 common with the people in Danville. And if we make  
9 Danville part of the -- the -- the -- what do I want  
10 to say? -- the district, it isn't a very contiguous  
11 district and it doesn't really have the same -- the  
12 same -- the same thought process. You don't have the  
13 same repres -- the same feelings that we would  
14 normally like to have. We're not a community.  
15 And I think we ought to be doing this as communities,  
16 and it ought to be working out. We should have these  
17 things fairly compact.

18 And these people that have talked before,  
19 I think, did a great job, and they -- they like to  
20 keep the communities as communities, and I think  
21 that's important. And when we gerrymander and spread  
22 them all over the state, it's pretty hard to do.

23 I guess that's mostly what I had to say.

24 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for coming in and

1 addressing us today. Nice to know your concerns.

2 We have questions. Would you be available  
3 for a question from Representative Rose?

4 MR. GABBERT: Yes.

5 REP. ROSE: Thank you. I love the way you  
6 said it, it should be done right and fair way -- right  
7 and a fair way.

8 MR. GABBERT: That's right.

9 REP. ROSE: Is -- I would assume part of  
10 that would be bringing the map back here to let you  
11 look at it before it's voted on.

12 MR. GABBERT: Yes, I think we need to look  
13 at a map, and somebody else said we don't look like --  
14 we don't like to look at maps that look like rabbits  
15 on skateboards. And I hope we don't get one of those  
16 this time.

17 REP. ROSE: And you also -- the previous  
18 speaker, Mr. Miller, had mentioned the Iowa model, and  
19 you talked about it in a right and fair way. You  
20 know, in your opinion, is this a process where the  
21 addresses of incumbents should be known to the  
22 mapmakers?

23 MR. GABBERT: Well, there have been  
24 cases -- I think we had it the last time we

1 redistricted -- when we ended up with four congressmen  
2 in the same district, and I think we should try to  
3 avoid that. This is a system that we have had in the  
4 past. We have somebody that isn't getting along too  
5 well with his friends in the congress, and they try to  
6 figure a way to get him out, and sometimes this  
7 happens.

8 REP. ROSE: But to get them out, they'd  
9 have to know the address, wouldn't they?

10 MR. GABBERT: They'd have to know the  
11 address.

12 REP. ROSE: Thank you very much.

13 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
14 comments.

15 Excuse me, Mr. Gabbert. If you'd join us  
16 for one more question from Representative Dave Leitch,  
17 Deputy Leader Dave Leitch.

18 REP. LEITCH: Thank you very much for your  
19 testimony.

20 When I hear you describe your concern for  
21 very spread out districts across many different  
22 communities, what occurs to me is you are saying in a  
23 different way that the voters in the district, by  
24 virtue of that geography, are disenfranchised in a way

1 that is not appropriate or, in your words, right. Is  
2 that an accurate characterization of your testimony?

3 MR. GABBERT: Yes, that's absolutely  
4 right, and you can be disenfranchised in a lot of  
5 ways, but if they take you out of a place and put you  
6 in another place that you have no background in and no  
7 continuity with, why, it does disenfranchise you.

8 REP. LEITCH: Thank you.

9 REP. MAUTINO: Next we'll hear from the  
10 vice president of government relations for the Peoria  
11 Area Chamber of Commerce, Doug Crew.

12 Mr. Crew, welcome. If you'll join us at  
13 the podium.

14 MR. CREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 My name is Doug Crew, D-o-u-g C-r-e-w, and  
16 as you indicated, I'm vice president, government  
17 relations with the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce,  
18 and I'm here this evening to read -- and I'll read a  
19 prepared statement into the record.

20 The Peoria chamber is one of the largest  
21 downstate business associations in Illinois,  
22 representing some 1,300 members who range from a  
23 Fortune 50 global leader to a number of sole  
24 proprietors in a variety of business sectors.

1           Like many business groups, we take  
2 positions on public policy issues that fall along a  
3 continuum of interest to our members -- some so  
4 specific as to have a bottom-line direct impact on  
5 members' operations, others are much broader and  
6 simply may fall under the heading of good government.  
7 It was for this latter reason that the Peoria chamber  
8 was a proponent of the Fair Map Amendment.

9           We believe now, as we did then, the  
10 redistricting process should be open and transparent  
11 with ample opportunity for public input. We believe  
12 that districts should be actually compact and  
13 contiguous and, where it makes sense, follow some  
14 natural or geographic boundary. At a minimum,  
15 district lines shouldn't run down alleys or divide  
16 neighborhoods and public consideration should prevail  
17 over political preservation.

18           While we recognize this philosophy may not  
19 be embraced by all, we also believe drawing  
20 legislative maps should not be left in the hands of  
21 those who stand to derive the most benefit. We have  
22 supported the formation of an outside group --  
23 individuals appointed by legislative leaders but with  
24 no direct vested interest in the outcome -- to draw a

1 new map. This would allow more time, greater public  
2 input, and less political favoritism in the process.  
3 We believe it would also help restore confidence in  
4 the redistricting process and in our elected leaders.

5 Our effort to get this measure on the  
6 ballot fell short, but interest in a process that  
7 follows these same principles remains. We encourage  
8 the redistricting committee to give serious  
9 consideration to elements of the Fair Map Coalition.

10 But there's another reason, I believe, to  
11 take a different approach to drawing a new map. In  
12 recent months, there's been no shortage of news about  
13 Illinois' fiscal woes and, in particular for groups  
14 like the Peoria chamber, the so-called business  
15 climate in our state. Despite the wealth of resources  
16 that our state possesses, Illinois has not been well  
17 served by decisions made in recent years -- decisions  
18 that have lead our state to the edge of a fiscal  
19 abyss.

20 As a result, the reputation of our state  
21 has suffered both in the eyes of those who live here  
22 and from those outside our own borders. The business  
23 community witnessed firsthand as numerous companies,  
24 including some Peoria chamber members, who were

1 approached about relocating to other states. I  
2 believe we're beginning to see positive signs that  
3 Illinois leaders today realize the path we're on is  
4 not sustainable.

5 To put that era behind us, we need to  
6 seize any opportunity to send a signal that it's a new  
7 day in Illinois, that leaders have turned the page on  
8 the practices of the past. How we deal with  
9 redistricting could be a proof point that we are  
10 changing the way we conduct the state's business.  
11 That's particularly important for those who risk their  
12 capital in starting or expanding their businesses  
13 here. How we redraw our legislative map can send a  
14 strong signal about how lawmakers want our state to be  
15 perceived and begin to restore confidence in our  
16 government.

17 Now, allow me to highlight three simple  
18 steps we think could demonstrate a new way of thinking  
19 in Illinois.

20 First, establish a series of meetings  
21 around the state to present and review an analysis of  
22 Illinois census data and its implications, including  
23 representation in Congress. Are there population  
24 changes and demographic shifts that may not bode well

1 for our state? What trends are emerging from the  
2 data? Where is Illinois a leader and where are we  
3 falling behind?

4 Second, create a more open process for  
5 drawing a new legislative map, and this hearing  
6 certainly is a good start. We encourage additional  
7 hearings and the opportunity for public input. But  
8 the process shouldn't start and end with public  
9 hearings. We need to have more hearings across the  
10 state over a longer period of time, giving both urban  
11 and rural populations in different areas of the state  
12 a chance to express their views.

13 Third, show us the map, not the final but  
14 a draft. Invite and encourage citizen input. Listen  
15 to the voters. Only by previewing the map as a draft,  
16 using another round of planned hearings and comments,  
17 can we claim any transparency in a process that  
18 currently is viewed with some cynicism and at times  
19 disdain.

20 We acknowledge that history and a  
21 compressed time frame may make these steps difficult.  
22 However, technology should allow for increased  
23 transparency, broader public involvement, and faster  
24 turnaround on key inputs.



1           Only if we take the time and not fear  
2 breaking from the past can we convince citizens in our  
3 state, including the business community that at times  
4 is skeptical, that we are on a new path.

5           And I thank you, Mr. Chairman and the  
6 committee, for coming to Peoria and holding this  
7 important hearing.

8           REP. MAUTINO: Thank you, sir.

9           And questions, members of the committee?  
10          Representative Rose.

11          REP. ROSE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12          You had mentioned the Fair Map Amendment,  
13 and I know that your organization and the state  
14 Chamber of Commerce endorsed that, but if I recall  
15 correctly, that was joined by the Farm Bureau --  
16 Illinois Farm Bureau. Was also joined by the League  
17 of Women Voters, Change Illinois, Brad McMillan's  
18 group that we're going to hear from later today.  
19 There's a pretty wide-ranging group. And I'm glad to  
20 hear you brought it up again, and you mentioned -- or  
21 I guess urged us, really, to adopt those tenets anyway  
22 and to use the Fair Map template as the way to do this  
23 right.

24          So in that -- and I just want to confirm

1 here with you that, in the Fair Map, two of the key  
2 tenets were not using incumbent addresses, and I  
3 assume you would agree that that's a good thing, that  
4 we not use incumbent addresses.

5 MR. CREW: If -- there's certainly going  
6 to be -- there would be a transition period if you did  
7 that, and I think it's just something that certainly  
8 needs to be considered.

9 REP. MAUTINO: Could you use the mic,  
10 please?

11 REP. ROSE: Yeah. Could you just say that  
12 in the microphone?

13 MR. CREW: Oh, I'm sorry.

14 REP. ROSE: So, in other words, that the  
15 computer wouldn't know who to protect or who to take  
16 out is the principle.

17 MR. CREW: I think, if both sides could  
18 agree that that was the process followed, yes.

19 REP. ROSE: And that was part of the Fair  
20 Map Amendment that you supported.

21 MR. CREW: I believe it was.

22 REP. ROSE: And then also not using  
23 political data except to the extent necessary to  
24 comport with the applicable civil rights rulings at

1 both the federal, state, and --

2 MR. CREW: True.

3 REP. ROSE: -- both statutory and  
4 jurisprudence. So I was glad to hear you mention that  
5 because those are very important tenets.

6 And I was also really glad to hear you  
7 mention to show the map. How long do you think would  
8 be a sufficient time line? And, you know, obviously  
9 to have these hearings. We're doing about 15 hearings  
10 in a week. But what kind of time would your  
11 organization need to look at a map and really analyze  
12 it and decide whether it's good for this community or  
13 not? A week? Two weeks?

14 MR. CREW: I think a minimum of a week and  
15 preferable two weeks in order to provide input. I  
16 heard a comment -- somebody said if you had it online  
17 or had hearings. I think, in the interest of  
18 transparency, let's afford time to do both.

19 REP. ROSE: Okay. Thank you.

20 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you very much.

21 We'll next hear from Irene Brown, Peoria  
22 Black Chamber of Commerce.

23 Ms. Brown, if you'd join us up front.

24 MS. BROWN: Good evening.

1 My name is Irene Brown, I-r-e-n-e  
2 B-r-o-w-n. I am the president of the Peoria Black  
3 Chamber of Commerce here locally.

4 I must tell you that with the Peoria Black  
5 Chamber of Commerce our first mission is to help the  
6 minority community -- specifically for the black  
7 community -- to build economic success,  
8 sustainability, and to have access to resources  
9 throughout the whole state and also Peoria County.

10 I've been diligently serving in this  
11 position since July 2010. Is it hard? Yes. And I  
12 must tell you that I lived in the ZIP code 61614. I  
13 used to live in WeaverRidge. I currently live in the  
14 ZIP code 61604. Major difference. Because I'm going  
15 to tell you this: Whether we keep 61604 compact with  
16 African-American community, is it helpful? Oh, yeah,  
17 we keep the gunshot fires right in back of my window.  
18 Is it helpful? No. I'm not quite sure how the  
19 redistricting or the Voting Rights can minimize some  
20 of the stuff that we see in 61604, 61605, 61603.  
21 So I'm not sure what redistricting would do to help  
22 that community.

23 Secondly, I'm from Chicago. I moved here  
24 in 1999. I went to Chicago State, alma mater,

1 business degree. I lived in 61619 -- pardon me --  
2 0 -- 19 in Chicago right by Chicago State. I lived in  
3 61615 in Hyde Park. Major difference. And this has  
4 happened in the span of my life in ten years.

5 So where we have the current map, we can  
6 all see that on a piece of nice paper. But you're  
7 talking about human lives that are in those districts.  
8 You're talking about a man or a woman that are trying  
9 to make it in 61604, but because we're so compacted in  
10 those indust -- in that environment where it -- it's a  
11 lot of unruly behavior that's going through that  
12 61604, 61605, and 61603 environment.

13 Redistricting sounds wonderful, but when  
14 you're putting puzzles together, maps together  
15 geographically, economic success in those communities  
16 need to happen. Otherwise, compacting, redistricting,  
17 remapping -- we're still going to have chaos in those  
18 ZIP codes.

19 So, please -- public hearing. Wonderful  
20 format. I was at the Senate format last Saturday.  
21 Wonderful. You guys all look wonderful. But you're  
22 dealing with people's lives in those -- in those --  
23 when you do redistricting. So keep it in mind.

24 I loved in living in WeaverRidge. Did I

1 hear the tat-tat-tat-tat-tat? No, I did not at all.  
2 I hear the golf clubs swinging a lot more. However,  
3 be sensitive when you're thinking about the lives of  
4 those moms in 61604. I'm a mom. So keeping us all  
5 huddled together, it's cute, but sometimes it's  
6 dangerous. I'm not sure how this is going to minimize  
7 that.

8 Thank you so very much. I have to go pick  
9 up my wonderful 16-year-old son from Richwoods High  
10 School. He's texting over there right now.

11 Are there any questions for any of you?

12 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your comments  
13 today.

14 MS. BROWN: You're very welcome. Have a  
15 beautiful night.

16 REP. MAUTINO: We'll hear next from the  
17 president of the Heart of Peoria Neighborhood  
18 Association, General Parker.

19 MR. PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 I just want to make it clear that I'm here  
21 as a private citizen. I'm not here on behalf of my  
22 neighborhood association.

23 REP. MAUTINO: Okay. Then the record will  
24 reflect that. Thank you for taking the time to join

1 us.

2 MR. PARKER: Want to thank you for --

3 REP. MAUTINO: You might have to speak up  
4 just a little bit.

5 MR. PARKER: Sorry about that.

6 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

7 I want to thank Representative Gordon for  
8 hosting this hearing today. Also Representative  
9 Leitch for being here. Our other representative,  
10 Representative Unes. Haven't met you yet, but I plan  
11 to real soon. And Representative Chapin Rose. I've  
12 worked with you and glad to see you here today.

13 I'm here today, like I said, as an  
14 individual. I was at the hearing on Saturday, and I  
15 do want to say this before I get started:  
16 Representative Rose, yes, I do -- or would like to see  
17 a map before you guys vote on it; so --

18 REP. ROSE: There you go.

19 MR. PARKER: I mean, I understand how  
20 things are for you guys in May, you're going seven  
21 days a week, and I would like to be able to see a map,  
22 but if you don't have an opportunity, I understand;  
23 so --

24 And also, with county board member Mayer

1 getting up and speaking on all the African-American  
2 rights and the Voters Rights Act, I'm kind of left  
3 with not much to say anymore; so --

4 But I will say this much: When you do the  
5 redistricting -- I'll say like I said Saturday -- I  
6 would like for you to keep in mind we have a growing  
7 Hispanic community. We have a large African-American  
8 community. Our school district is 65 to 70 percent  
9 African-American, but that's not reflective on your  
10 school board. Our city is 30 percent African-  
11 American, and that's not reflective on your city  
12 council.

13 And we've torn down a couple of housing  
14 projects. People have been relocated throughout the  
15 city. Most of them moved north. Representative  
16 Gordon and Representative Leitch, I believe -- their  
17 line is Glen Avenue. Some of those minority  
18 population have moved just on the other side of Glen  
19 Avenue, like Villa Bordeaux complex or the Vinton  
20 Highland community, places like that, and they may  
21 not have the representation that they had previously  
22 living on the south side. And I would like to make  
23 sure that you do keep that in consideration, the  
24 Voter -- Voters Rights Act.



1 I don't believe that the Iowa model fits  
2 here in Illinois because you can't have two more  
3 diverse ends of the spectrum. Because I don't think  
4 the Voter Right Act would even compare in Iowa because  
5 it's, like, 2 percent African-American population in  
6 the whole state. You know, I worked in a caucus one  
7 year, and I went for days without even seeing a face  
8 that looked like mine. So you can't be compact and  
9 contiguous like you are in Iowa. You can't do that  
10 here because you might have a compact, contiguous area  
11 out there in the middle of a cornfield, and then we  
12 still don't have the representation that we need.  
13 We need to be able to have a voice that advocates for  
14 us and what we need and some of our concerns.

15 And, like I said before, that's not  
16 reflective on our school board, and it's not  
17 reflective on our city council, and my community is  
18 suffering for it. Our school district has been  
19 suffering because of that. And I think you guys need  
20 to take that into consideration.

21 Those who believe that the Iowa model fits  
22 here in Illinois, I don't think they should be  
23 concerned with redistricting. They probably should  
24 need to be concerned with relocating because that

1 might suit them a little bit better because they're  
2 not being sensitive to all the communities and all the  
3 ethnicities that play a part here in Illinois; so --

4 I do agree with Don Jackson as far as the  
5 prison population. You take the census. People are  
6 not there at that time. They're locked up. But then  
7 you're releasing these people back into their old  
8 communities. They need to have the resources when  
9 they return home or else you're going to have the  
10 recidivism that we have and we face today because the  
11 money's not there to be able to help them out when  
12 they get out of prison, you know.

13 So those are some of the things I want to  
14 discuss with you, and thank you for your time.

15 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
16 comments, sir.

17 Questions?

18 Representative Rose.

19 REP. ROSE: Thank you.

20 Good seeing you again, General.

21 MR. PARKER: Yes, sir.

22 REP. ROSE: I didn't realize you were from  
23 Peoria. I was looking, "What are you doing here?"

24 So I understand your comments about the

1 Iowa model.

2 The Fair Map Amendment, which the  
3 previous -- I don't know if it was right before you,  
4 but one of the previous speakers discussed --

5 MR. PARKER: Right.

6 REP. ROSE: -- was not an adoption per se  
7 of Iowa, but had some pretty key tenets, and I would  
8 assume that you would be okay with or would advocate  
9 that we not use incumbent addresses in redistricting.  
10 I mean, that would be a fairer system for any citizen  
11 of Illinois that -- you know, that the computers  
12 drawing the maps wouldn't know where I live or Frank  
13 Mautino or anybody else lives. I would assume you  
14 would say that would be a better way of doing things  
15 than we currently do it.

16 MR. PARKER: I would agree that that's  
17 fair. Because when you're doing the redistricting,  
18 you shouldn't be considering the politician. You  
19 should be considering the area that they serve.

20 And, see, like, I want to make clear, I'm  
21 up here as a private individual. I'm not here as an  
22 organization. I'm not here as any company. So I'm  
23 not going to make money off your decision one way or  
24 the other, you know. You're not going to have money

1 coming in my company or I'm not going to get funding  
2 or grants because of what you do.

3 I'm here because I serve people who been  
4 underrepresented, you know. These people feel they  
5 don't have a voice, like they're not even a part of  
6 the process, and they feel so much so that the apathy  
7 out there -- they don't even show up to vote now  
8 because they feel like their vote don't count. I want  
9 these people to be able to feel like they're part of  
10 the process and their vote does matter.

11 REP. ROSE: And would you agree with some  
12 of the previous speakers who said doing this right can  
13 help us address some of that apathy to show the  
14 citizens of Illinois that, you know, we're trying to  
15 listen and trying to come up with a fair map that is  
16 done correctly? I mean, this process is pretty  
17 important, and the way we conduct this process is  
18 pretty important.

19 MR. PARKER: It's very important.

20 REP. ROSE: It goes right to that concern  
21 you just listed which is apathy; right?

22 MR. PARKER: Right.

23 REP. ROSE: Okay. Thank you very much.

24 Good seeing you again.

1 MR. PARKER: You too.

2 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you very much for  
3 joining with us.

4 We're going to take a short break at the  
5 request of our -- of some of our staff that are  
6 assisting us. So we're going to take about five to  
7 ten minutes, and then we'll be back in and we still  
8 have about a dozen people waiting to give testimony.  
9 So it will be a few minutes, and we will stand at  
10 ease.

11 (Short recess.)

12 REP. MAUTINO: The recessed committee is  
13 reconvened.

14 We will hear next from Carol Trumpe. Is  
15 it Trumpe?

16 MS. TRUMPE: Yes.

17 REP. MAUTINO: Welcome. Please join us at  
18 the podium. Thank you for allowing us to meet here  
19 and use the chambers today as well.

20 For the court reporter, if you would state  
21 your name and spell it and proceed.

22 MS. TRUMPE: My name is Carol Trumpe,  
23 C-a-r-o-l T-r-u-m-p-e.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to

1 all of you. We're happy to have you in the courthouse  
2 here.

3 I am a 20-year member of the Peoria County  
4 Board and a resident of Peoria County for 41 years  
5 now, and I've certainly enjoyed serving on the county  
6 board and we welcome this opportunity to host the  
7 public and have an opportunity to talk about the map  
8 and the redistricting.

9 Just right off the top let me say that I  
10 agree with those principles of not having the names of  
11 officeholders on the map when things are being  
12 considered and also appreciate the fact that there  
13 could be at least a two-week time period in which we  
14 could look at the map and have discussions and react  
15 to it.

16 I am really concerned about the  
17 potential disenfranchisement of people due to  
18 gerrymandering. When people are in an area that has  
19 been gerrymandered, for about ten years in which they  
20 live within that district, they're really at a  
21 disadvantage, and so that is one concern I have about  
22 gerrymandering.

23 I don't want to go into the positive  
24 things that people have said here, but I have one more

1 comment to make from the standpoint of a person who  
2 knows what the county clerk does in creating the maps  
3 and in creating the ballots that fit the maps when  
4 there is an election.

5 I have a statistic here that, in 2010 at  
6 the time of the primary election, there were 81 ballot  
7 styles created for Peoria County, and I know that when  
8 I voted in my Kickapoo precinct voting spot, there  
9 were many different possible ballots depending upon  
10 where the people in my district lived and according to  
11 all the different varieties of areas they had to fit  
12 into to meet qualifications of school board, fire  
13 district, all these different things.

14 But I can tell you that, from the  
15 standpoint of the county clerk's office, it is really  
16 a very difficult task to get all of those ballots  
17 properly prepared and then handled because it takes so  
18 much work. So here is where there is a negative for  
19 gerrymandering also just in the creation of the work  
20 that is being demanded from the people in the county  
21 who have to orchestrate and make everything secure for  
22 that election.

23 So that is just a very, I guess, practical  
24 aspect, I'd say, of this, and sometimes we might not

1 think of that, but simplicity and following the good  
2 criteria that are listed for you seem to make a better  
3 amount of work and easily handled and less difficulty  
4 or mistake.

5 So that is why I would just caution  
6 against any gerrymandering.

7 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
8 comments.

9 Mr. Rose?

10 REP. ROSE: No.

11 REP. MAUTINO: No?

12 Thank you for allowing us to use your  
13 chambers.

14 MS. TRUMPE: Thank you very much. And by  
15 the way, I did speak just as an individual today. I  
16 was not representing the county board.

17 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you. Noted.

18 Mr. McMillan. Brad McMillan is going to  
19 speak to us next and on behalf of the Illinois Reform  
20 Commission, Fair Map Coalition.

21 Brad, welcome. If you'd join us at the  
22 podium and state your full name for the court  
23 reporter.

24 MR. MCMILLAN: My name is Brad McMillan,



1 B-r-a-d M-c-M-i-l-l-a-n. I served on Governor Pat  
2 Quinn's Illinois Reform Commission, and I was put in  
3 charge of the part of our 100-Day Report that looked  
4 at redistricting reform in Illinois; and then I  
5 subsequently chaired the Illinois Fair Map Coalition  
6 citizen initiative.

7 The one thing that I've learned through  
8 the two-year process that I've been through is that  
9 there is a desperate need to restore citizen  
10 confidence in Illinois government and politics. A  
11 recent Paul Simon poll that was taken late last year  
12 of 758 likely voters found that 81.3 percent of  
13 Illinois voters think the state is on the wrong track.  
14 76.6 percent of Illinoisans disapprove of our current  
15 redistricting process.

16 The long-term goal is to have meaningful  
17 redistricting reform, which Illinois Fair Map  
18 Coalition worked hard to do, but we ran out of time;  
19 but we are reconstituting the coalition, and I believe  
20 early summer we will relaunch a statewide citizen  
21 initiative for meaningful redistricting reform.

22 But for purposes of today, we are in the  
23 middle of the redistricting process following the 2010  
24 Census, and we need to make this the best process

1 possible. And the first thing we need to talk about  
2 is real transparency. Last spring session the  
3 Illinois General Assembly had two legislative  
4 constitutional amendments that were moving forward:  
5 one that mirrors the Illinois Fair Map Amendment and  
6 the other was Senator Kwame Raoul's alternative. It  
7 took a supermajority vote. It only failed by two  
8 votes in the House, and regardless of which proposal  
9 you voted for, you voted for hearings like we're  
10 having today throughout the state before the draft  
11 maps were released, and you also voted for at least  
12 four substantive hearings after the draft maps were  
13 released.

14 Now, even though those legislative  
15 constitutional amendments failed, there is absolutely  
16 nothing prohibiting the Illinois General Assembly from  
17 following through and doing what's right for the  
18 citizens of Illinois.

19 Somewhere -- I don't know where -- there's  
20 negotiations going on behind closed doors in secret  
21 rooms regarding the Illinois congressional map. We  
22 all know what happened last time: The Illinois  
23 congressional map was negotiated behind closed doors,  
24 and at the last minute it was released and it was

1 voted on by the General Assembly.

2 Now, while these don't constitute the  
3 state legislative districts, the Illinois General  
4 Assembly has the final vote to approve the  
5 congressional map. And we also -- we saw what the  
6 result was: the most gerrymandered congressional  
7 districts anywhere in the country.

8 If you look at the 17th District, it was  
9 gerrymandered for a Democratic-safe district. If you  
10 look at the 15th -- to show my bipartisanship -- it  
11 was gerrymandered for a Republican-safe district. And  
12 the truth is both parties, if you're honest with  
13 yourselves, have used the system for political  
14 purposes over the years.

15 The most important thing, though, should  
16 be what's in the people's best interest, not what's in  
17 the politician's best interest.

18 Now, we know, based on the 2010 Census  
19 data, that what's going to happen downstate is that  
20 the districts are going to have to become larger.  
21 Representative Gordon's district is going to have to  
22 grow by 10,000 votes. Representative -- or state  
23 Senator Koehler's senate district is going to have to  
24 grow by 15,000 votes.

1                   These are the principles that we  
2 believe -- the Reform Commission and the Fair Map  
3 Coalition -- that should be followed. We have always  
4 felt that the Voting Rights Act has to be respected,  
5 that minority voting rights need to be protected. The  
6 districts need to be substantially equal in  
7 population. They need to be compact. They need to be  
8 contiguous. They need to follow geographic features  
9 and municipal boundaries. And there needs to be no  
10 discrimination against any political party or group,  
11 and that includes not putting opposing party  
12 incumbents in the same district just for political  
13 purposes. And that's one of the things that we're  
14 going to look at when this map gets released -- to see  
15 whether this is a fair map or whether this is purely a  
16 political map.

17                   Much has been said about protecting  
18 minority voting rights, and there's a wonderful group  
19 that is working very hard on presenting an alternative  
20 map. It's called the Illinois Campaign for  
21 Accountable Redistricting. It includes organizations  
22 like the Asian American Institute, Chicago Appleseed  
23 Fund for Justice, CHANGE Illinois!, Citizen Advocacy  
24 Center, Illinois PIRG Education Fund group, League of

1 Women Voters, Mexican American Legal Defense and  
2 Education Fund, and United Congress, and they're very  
3 close to coming up with a proposal for the Chicago  
4 metropolitan area that would create the maximum number  
5 of minority districts up in the Chicago area.

6 We urge the Illinois House to pay  
7 attention and to give due respect to the minority  
8 groups that have been working very hard on coming up  
9 with this map proposal.

10 The current process is flawed, but the  
11 Illinois legislature can restore the faith of the  
12 public by having substantive public hearings after the  
13 draft maps are released, protecting geographic  
14 boundaries, and not drawing gerrymandered lines merely  
15 for political purposes to create safe incumbent  
16 districts.

17 The most important consideration should be  
18 what's in the best interest of the public, and isn't  
19 that really what public service should be all about?

20 And those are my comments.

21 REP. MAUTINO: Questions?

22 Representative Moffitt.

23 REP. MOFFITT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Brad, thank you for taking time to come,

1 and I know you've been thinking about this for a long  
2 time and worked hard on it.

3 Just out of interest, you indicated a lot  
4 of things you thought should be changed about Illinois  
5 maps and the process. Are there any states that you  
6 would identify as a good model in terms of having a  
7 record of doing things right?

8 MR. MCMILLAN: Well, when I was on the  
9 Reform Commission, we took expert testimony from  
10 experts all across the country, and the growing  
11 trend -- whether it's California, Arizona -- is to  
12 create an independent bipartisan commission that would  
13 look at very specific criteria in drawing the maps.

14 I mean, there's been some discussion about  
15 Iowa here, but I would agree that we can't just take  
16 the Iowa model and put it in Illinois. That's why we  
17 were very careful with the way we drafted the Illinois  
18 Fair Map Amendment. We tried to -- we actually tried  
19 to look at the best models from across the country  
20 when we drafted the Fair Map Amendment.

21 REP. MOFFITT: Are there any states that  
22 are as diverse, basically, as Illinois that you think  
23 do it right?

24 MR. MCMILLAN: Well, California is a

1 very -- is a very diverse state. I'm not as  
2 knowledgeable on the demographics of Arizona.

3 REP. MOFFITT: You feel they do it the  
4 proper way.

5 One other real quick question. Time is of  
6 the essence.

7 You said the 17th and 15th Congressional  
8 Districts were drawn to protect certain people or I  
9 believe -- however you said that.

10 MR. MCMILLAN: Well, they were to draw  
11 safe districts.

12 REP. MOFFITT: How has that plan worked?  
13 Did it accomplish --

14 MR. MCMILLAN: Well, actually, it was --  
15 the 17th actually switched from Democratic to  
16 Republican.

17 REP. MOFFITT: Thank you.

18 REP. MAUTINO: As has been the history  
19 with a couple of the maps over the last couple of  
20 decades.

21 Representative Rose.

22 REP. ROSE: Every now and again you get  
23 lucky.

24 Mr. McMillan, first of all, as somebody

1 who was the lead sponsor of the Fair Map Amendment in  
2 the House, I want to say how much I appreciate you and  
3 your institute's time that you put into that.

4 Also, as somebody that got a thousand  
5 signatures towards that, I look forward to getting  
6 2,000 next time. So I was really glad to hear you say  
7 that that's going to come back around in the summer.

8 And I truly say this: The folks in Peoria  
9 are lucky to have you and the institute because you  
10 provided great leadership on it.

11 So with that, I'd like to ask just a  
12 couple questions. I was glad to hear you say that  
13 there's nothing stopping us from doing a Fair Map  
14 anyway. And if you wouldn't mind, I'd like you to  
15 expound a little bit. To me there's kind of two --  
16 well, there's kind of three key components to the Fair  
17 Map. One was the commission -- the independent  
18 commission. The second was the incumbent addresses  
19 and not using the incumbent addresses so you wouldn't  
20 know who to protect or who to not protect, who to take  
21 out. But the last one I'm going to ask you for your  
22 expertise on a little bit is can you discuss the --  
23 and you touched on it briefly in your remarks, but the  
24 protections for racial/ethnic minorities that were in



1 the Fair Map Amendment because I think we all agree  
2 that that's extremely important and it has to be  
3 protected. So could you talk a little bit about the  
4 Fair Map and, you know, how that worked.

5 MR. MCMILLAN: Well, you know, again, the  
6 Fair Map Coalition included the League of Women  
7 Voters, CHANGE Illinois!, most of the key reform  
8 groups throughout the state of Illinois, as well as  
9 the state Chamber of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, good  
10 government groups.

11 But what we did when we drafted the Fair  
12 Map Amendment is we sought out the advice and counsel  
13 of the Brennan Center for Justice, which is the  
14 leading organization in the country on the protection  
15 of minority voting rights, and they gave us the  
16 verbatim language that we put in the Fair Map  
17 Amendment that would fully protect minority voting  
18 rights under federal law.

19 And so, you know, the one thing that the  
20 Reform Commission was -- and, again, the Reform  
21 Commission was very diverse. It has Sheila Simon on  
22 it. It had Dave Hoffman on it who ran for the  
23 U.S. Senate on the Democratic side. It had Anita  
24 Alvarez, the Cook County state's attorney. It had

1 quite a number of people.

2 The one thing that we were absolutely  
3 unanimous about was we wanted to fully protect  
4 minority voting rights in the process. So I know we  
5 were criticized when we went down to testify last  
6 spring at the General Assembly that we weren't  
7 sensitive to minority voting rights, but, in my  
8 opinion, there could have -- that was so false and so  
9 untrue.

10 And so hopefully that answered your  
11 question.

12 REP. ROSE: It did, and to that end, you  
13 had said that many of the interest groups are working  
14 on their own map right now and --

15 MR. MCMILLAN: Well -- and you'll like to  
16 hear this, Representative Rose: These are the leading  
17 African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American minority  
18 organizations in Chicago, and the principles that they  
19 used in drawing the maps was to follow Section 2 of  
20 the Voting Rights Act, but specifically their  
21 principles did not allow incumbent addresses or  
22 political voting history in the maps that they're  
23 drawing for the Chicago metropolitan area. And so  
24 those are the principles that the leading minority

1 groups up in the Chicago area are using to draw this  
2 alternative map.

3 REP. ROSE: So, then, would it -- would it  
4 behoove us to wait to do anything until we get their  
5 map and get a -- for us to take a look at it?

6 MR. MCMILLAN: I believe that there will  
7 be a consensus map that will be released within  
8 probably two weeks, and I have been asked to help lead  
9 a group to use -- to partner with ICAR and use their  
10 map consulting experts to use those same principles to  
11 draw downstate maps so that, when we release it  
12 publicly, it will be a map for the entire state.

13 REP. ROSE: Could you just, for the  
14 record, tell us what ICAR is?

15 MR. MCMILLAN: It is the Illinois Citizens  
16 for Accountable Redistricting.

17 REP. ROSE: Two last quick questions. One  
18 is just merely a housekeeping. Earlier in your  
19 testimony you said Representative Gordon would have to  
20 pick up 10,000 votes. I suspect you meant to say  
21 people, citizens.

22 MR. MCMILLAN: Correct. I'm sorry. That  
23 was population.

24 REP. ROSE: There was a similar reference,

1 I think, to maybe Senator Koehler where you used  
2 votes, and I would assume you meant to say people.

3 MR. MCMILLAN: I meant people. Sorry.

4 REP. ROSE: The other thing is -- and if  
5 you don't have an opinion, that's fine. I think it  
6 was Senator Raoul at one of the Senate hearings has  
7 come up with his own criteria that says that somehow  
8 it's important -- that it would be important a "know  
9 your legislator" criterion. That's not exactly how he  
10 put it, but that somehow we ought to pay attention to  
11 who our current people are, you know, from a citizen  
12 standpoint, with their current representative and  
13 there's some value in that. Are you aware of any  
14 federal or state case law that would make that a  
15 criterion for discussion?

16 MR. MCMILLAN: I am not.

17 REP. ROSE: Thank you.

18 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your comments  
19 and testimony.

20 MR. MCMILLAN: Thank you.

21 REP. MAUTINO: Appreciate it.

22 We'll next hear from C. Victor Smith, the  
23 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

24 MR. SMITH: Yeah. My name is C. Victor,

1 V-i-c-t-o-r S-m-i-t-h, and I'm the legislative  
2 director from the state of Illinois for VFW.

3 I want to thank this committee for the  
4 hearings they're having, and I want to thank them  
5 again for asking for veterans input. I didn't know if  
6 we had any input to this or not. I'm glad we do.

7 Each time one of these hearings were held,  
8 I asked the district commander if the district -- see,  
9 we have 19 districts in the state also, but they don't  
10 match up any legislative districts or congressional  
11 districts. So we have quite a mishmash of  
12 representatives.

13 So I tried to get each district commander  
14 to get somebody to this committee. And I live down in  
15 Frederick, Illinois. So I'm not from this area, but  
16 we do have some conventions up here. And I'm glad to  
17 see that the criteria that's spelled out in the state  
18 constitution is being adhered to and the rest of the  
19 Voting Act.

20 And I think anything I might have said  
21 other than that has already been said, and thanks for  
22 listening.

23 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you so much, and I  
24 appreciate your comments after making the trip up as

1 well.

2 Questions?

3 REP. ROSE: Just brief.

4 REP. MAUTINO: Representative Rose.

5 REP. ROSE: I've heard about those  
6 conventions.

7 MR. SMITH: Okay.

8 REP. ROSE: I would like to -- I assume  
9 that you would agree with many of the previous  
10 speakers that public comment on a proposed draft map  
11 is crucial to this process.

12 MR. SMITH: Yes, it is.

13 REP. ROSE: Thank you.

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

15 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you.

16 We'll next hear from Matthew Woodmancy.

17 Is Matthew with us? Oh, record of appearance only.

18 Okay. And that will go into the record.

19 COURT REPORTER: Could you spell that last  
20 name?

21 REP. MAUTINO: Sure. It is Matthew A.  
22 Woodmancy, W-o-o-d-m-a-n-c-y. Record of appearance  
23 only.

24 Fred Carter. Brad Carter. Is Brad Carter

1 with us?

2 MR. CARTER: Yes.

3 REP. MAUTINO: Brad, welcome.

4 MR. CARTER: Still taking notes.

5 My name is Brad Carter, B-r-a-d

6 C-a-r-t-e-r.

7 REP. MAUTINO: Proceed, sir.

8 MR. CARTER: Thank you for making the  
9 process for citizens to come talk to the panel  
10 throughout the state. It's sometimes hard for us to  
11 get to Springfield. So I do appreciate your guys'  
12 willingness to move around the state.

13 I did come to talk about Iowa and  
14 skateboarding rabbits, but I will get into that in a  
15 little while.

16 Mr. Chairman, I am a boat rocker. So if I  
17 get out of line, you have my permission to throw  
18 something at me.

19 REP. MAUTINO: No. I'll just remind you  
20 of the time that you have.

21 MR. CARTER: Some of the people that spoke  
22 earlier, I wish they were still around. I would like  
23 to address some of the things they said. But one of  
24 the things that I would like to say to my friend Allen

1 Mayer is I'm not necessarily happy with the way our  
2 districts are in the Peoria area, just so you know.

3 But I am happy to be from Peoria and live  
4 in a diverse community, and some of the people that  
5 spoke earlier talked about protecting minority rights,  
6 and I agree with that. We need to protect minority  
7 rights. However, I must say that I was getting a  
8 little frustrated. What I was hearing was let's  
9 protect minority rights so much that we have equal but  
10 separate, and I thought we've grown past that. So we  
11 need to be careful that we don't approach that type of  
12 protection, that we have a solid block of minority  
13 voters only. That's not fair to them. It's not fair  
14 to the rest of the districts. It's not fair to  
15 anybody.

16 Now I would like to talk about Iowa. I  
17 won't rehash some of the things that were said.  
18 However, the congressional districts in Iowa -- pretty  
19 straight lines. Now, Iowa does have the ideal setup  
20 of counties where they're all on nice little grids.  
21 We don't have that in Illinois. I understand that  
22 but --

23 REP. ROSE: I'm sorry, sir. Let's just  
24 keep a record here. Why don't you title that. Give



1 us a title of what you're referring to because you're  
2 going to have to submit that in to the record.

3 MR. CARTER: I have a --

4 REP. MAUTINO: That's the Iowa --

5 MR. CARTER: -- Iowa congressional  
6 districts map from 2000 --

7 REP. ROSE: All right, sir. Go ahead.

8 REP. MAUTINO: You need to actually, when  
9 you're done with that, sign off -- sign off on it and  
10 turn that in to us.

11 REP. ROSE: And I apologize too. I  
12 just -- I'm a lawyer; so I try to keep the record  
13 straight.

14 MR. CARTER: So they do have the nice  
15 little grid format set up, but we do have natural --  
16 we do have county lines that can easily be drawn  
17 across lines -- lost my train of thought now.

18 And with regard to state senate and state  
19 representative districts -- holding up an Iowa state  
20 senate district map -- they -- they still have pretty  
21 straight lines, and the same with the house -- Iowa  
22 house district map.

23 However, in the urban environments where  
24 there's larger communities, they do separate their

1 districts along well-known borders such as rivers or  
2 major roads such as U.S. 150 or Interstate 74. Those  
3 are major roads that people know. I hate looking at a  
4 district map and having to get out a magnifying glass  
5 and go, "Where exactly" -- on the big wall maps,  
6 "Where exactly do I live?" It would be a lot better  
7 if we knew exactly, "Hey, I live in this county. I'm  
8 in that district."

9 Iowa's transparency is a little bit  
10 different. Illinois we have -- if the representatives  
11 -- or if the General Assembly can't do it, then it  
12 goes to a panel. If they can't do it, then it goes to  
13 the Supreme Court. In Iowa it is a citizens' panel,  
14 and if they can't do it, then it goes to their  
15 legislators. And then if they can't do it, it goes to  
16 the Supreme Court. That would be a good way to take  
17 away most of the partisanship that happens.

18 I would like to also discuss some of the  
19 positives that I came up with for redistricting the  
20 way that Iowa does. It will remove most of the  
21 political -- of the politics in redistricting.  
22 Constituents will have an easier time understanding  
23 what districts they live in and easier time knowing  
24 who represents them, and politicians will not be able

1 to rest on their laurels thinking their district is  
2 safe. I want every one of you to work for my vote  
3 every election -- every day, as a matter of fact.

4 So those are some of the positives. There  
5 are more. But in the interest of time, one more  
6 point. The citizens that propose to the Iowa  
7 legislature, they have to present three maps. They  
8 propose three maps that is then voted on. So I  
9 would -- I'm not happy with one map either. Because  
10 if you go, "Here you go. That's all you get. Do you  
11 like it or not?" then you get the arm twisting.

12 "Well, you better vote on it because we have time  
13 limits coming up." You know, you dress something up,  
14 it's still whatever it was. It's a pig or whatever,  
15 you know. I don't -- I don't necessarily think pigs  
16 are all that bad. I like pork. But sometimes they  
17 can be pretty smelly.

18 So that's my presentation, and I'd be  
19 happy to answer questions if there are any.

20 REP. MAUTINO: Representative Rose.

21 REP. ROSE: Would you like us to bring a  
22 map back and show it to you before it's voted on?

23 MR. CARTER: I would like you to bring  
24 back at least one map, and I think two weeks is a

1 sufficient amount of time.

2 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you much.

3 Justin Green we will hear from next.

4 Welcome, Justin.

5 MR. GREEN: Hi. My name is Justin Green,  
6 J-u-s-t-i-n G-r-e-e-n, and I'm actually from Tazewell  
7 County; so just across the river. And it's a very  
8 lovely county. I'm 20 -- almost 24 years old, and  
9 I've lived there in Mackinaw my entire life except for  
10 the two years that I lived here in Peoria while  
11 attending Bradley University.

12 And we in Tazewell County are very, very  
13 lucky to be very, very well represented by a great  
14 group of people, and I think that's part of the reason  
15 that we are such a great county, in my opinion, is  
16 that our leaders -- many of you here today -- are  
17 exceptional in that they put our county before they  
18 put themselves.

19 And I think what most people in Tazewell  
20 County are concerned of is that we are going to be a  
21 victim of politics. That somebody that wasn't  
22 necessarily supposed to win in a district is going to  
23 get placed into a district with somebody else that is  
24 of the opposing party.

1                   And all we really want out of Tazewell  
2 County is a fair map that's based not on party  
3 politics or statewide political gain and more so on  
4 the needs of the people and what those communities --  
5 what are involved in those communities. For too long  
6 we've seen districts that are at most laughable  
7 because they are drawn for political purposes.

8                   And Mr. McMillan brought up earlier the  
9 15th and the 17th, and last election was rare because  
10 of the voter turnout and stuff, and I think that was  
11 part of the reason that it actually didn't -- it  
12 actually changed and was not the same as it was  
13 before.

14                   And for too long they've been drawn to  
15 keep certain members in power and to protect  
16 themselves, and the outcome is something that looks a  
17 lot like the abstract Picasso painting I saw in a  
18 museum once rather than actual legislative districts.

19                   There's no doubt in my mind that a fair,  
20 compact map can be drawn while acknowledging existing  
21 boundaries -- whether they be county boundaries,  
22 township boundaries, or natural boundaries like  
23 rivers -- and be done fairly and according for federal  
24 and state law.

1           There's no doubt in my mind that they can  
2 do so and create competitive races for all the  
3 members, and I think that's exactly what needs to be  
4 done in Illinois. For too long there's a lot of  
5 people that have been in an office that have been  
6 there for a long time and their districts have been  
7 safe for them without any real competition. And just  
8 like competition is very proactive and very good in  
9 the business and the private sector, it should be and  
10 it is for the public sector as well.

11           And, lastly, I just kind of want to  
12 reiterate what Mr. McMillan said about the hearings.  
13 And this is great. I love being able to come and get  
14 in front of you all and, you know, give my opinion and  
15 love to hear everybody else's opinion and that they  
16 have the opportunity to do so. But I think now is not  
17 as necessary as it is after the map has been drawn and  
18 after we've actually got a chance to see them.  
19 And I think that the proposed, kind-of-being-talked-  
20 about two is not enough after the map's been drawn to  
21 show -- or to get citizen input. I think something  
22 kind of like the schedule that we have now over a  
23 two-week period would be sufficient and absolutely  
24 necessary for transparency.

1                   And, really, I think, that's -- I mean, we  
2    just want a fair map that is transparent and absent of  
3    political games, and I think that's what's needed to  
4    get people engaged. I think people are just kind of  
5    turned off by the whole fact that, "Oh, well, they're  
6    at it again. Look at the district maps we have now,"  
7    and the same people that drew them last time are doing  
8    them again; so --

9                   I think that's it. If anybody has any  
10   questions.

11                  REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
12    comments.

13                  Mr. Moffitt, question?

14                  REP. MOFFITT: Yes, thank you.

15                  Justin, just a question and your opinion.

16                  MR. CARTER: Okay.

17                  REP. MOFFITT: No right or wrong answer.  
18    You used the term "competitive" on the districts, and  
19    yet we've heard several times you shouldn't --  
20    comments it should be independently drawn and not take  
21    into account partisan registration, I believe, would  
22    be a fair description of what some have advocated. To  
23    be sure you had competitive maps, in your opinion,  
24    would have to take into account, then, the party

1 voting? And just your opinion. What you --

2 MR. CARTER: I feel that actually it  
3 shouldn't be taken into account, and by doing so, it  
4 would effectively be creating more competitive races.  
5 By not taking that into account, you're -- you're not  
6 necessarily looking at party identification and  
7 saying, well, this -- this, you know, subdivision or  
8 this area tends to be more Republican leaning; so  
9 we're going to put it over here because we want a safe  
10 Republican district or separating --

11 REP. MOFFITT: You're saying do not take  
12 that into account.

13 MR. CARTER: That's right.

14 REP. MOFFITT: But you used the word  
15 "competitive," and I just -- I think you're the first  
16 person to use that and to -- that would be an  
17 indicator or have some bearing on how competitive a  
18 district was.

19 Appreciate your opinion. Thank you.

20 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you.

21 Next we will hear from Jim Wright.

22 Welcome, Mr. Wright, and he is here  
23 representing Tea Party Patriots of Chillicothe.

24 Welcome, Mr. Wright.



1 MR. WRIGHT: An army of one.

2 REP. MAUTINO: An army of one, and we're  
3 delighted to have you here today.

4 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very much for  
5 hearing me.

6 I wasn't really anticipating addressing  
7 such an important commission here, but I came in just  
8 for my own information, but I -- a year ago I happened  
9 to do a little bit of a presentation for the local Tea  
10 Party, a group in Chillicothe, and it just so happens  
11 that it was on the Illinois Fair Map Amendment.

12 So in the interest of brevity, I won't go  
13 through everything. There have been more eloquent  
14 speakers ahead of me with a lot more facts. But my  
15 presentation consisted of, in California, the land of  
16 government by initiative, more than 30,000 citizens  
17 were vying for 14 spots on a redistricting commission  
18 -- and this would have been for the year 2009 -- that  
19 would have redrawn the state's legislative boundaries  
20 after the 2010 Census.

21 In no-nonsense Iowa, the once-a-decade job  
22 is handled capably by three guys and a computer.

23 Last year -- which, again, this would have  
24 been 2009 -- the Ohio Secretary of State's office

1 sponsored a contest, inviting citizens to redraw the  
2 existing map using the original data. The entries  
3 were scored based on compactness, how well they  
4 followed the existing community boundaries, and how  
5 well they avoided favoring a single party. The worst  
6 citizen-drawn entry scored higher than the actual map  
7 drawn by the politicians.

8           One other comment I would like to make.  
9 Quoting Mary Schaafsma, who is the policy director of  
10 the League of Women Voters, "We have a legislature in  
11 Illinois that picks the people, instead of having the  
12 people pick the legislature."

13           Now, I don't have to -- this isn't  
14 anything new to any of you: voter apathy, the state  
15 of politics in Illinois, how we have -- the state of  
16 Illinois has become kind of a joke around the United  
17 States for politicians.

18           If this is truly a process that you want  
19 to be fair and you want to truly serve the people, I  
20 don't see anything wrong with coming up with something  
21 that mirrors the Fair Map Amendment. If you don't do  
22 it yourselves, I think that groups like the Tea Party  
23 and Brad McMillan's group are eventually going to push  
24 it down your throats instead of having it pushed down

1     ours.

2                     I know all about why -- as well as you do,  
3     I know all about why the districts are redrawn to  
4     favor one party or another.  Transparency is more than  
5     just a word, and I would urge you to do all that you  
6     can in your positions to try to make this a fair  
7     process and to get Illinois out of the gutter and get  
8     it up to where we can be proud that we live here  
9     rather than having to go through -- listen and see  
10    what we see on television with -- whenever one of our  
11    politicians gets in trouble.

12                    And, again, I'm here by myself.  I don't  
13    represent anybody.  I just thought I'd, you know, wear  
14    my hat and my T-shirt just to let you know that, even  
15    though I'm the only one here, there are an awful lot  
16    of people that feel the same way that I do and are  
17    really disgusted with the state of -- of the politics  
18    that goes on out of basically Cook County and  
19    Springfield, Illinois.

20                    So thank you for allowing me to have my  
21    say.

22                    REP. MAUTINO:  Thank you for joining with  
23    us.

24                    Mr. Dawson.  John Dawson from Chillicothe,

1 will be joining with us. His name is on file, and  
2 that will be -- all these will be part of the website  
3 as well. If you have any ideas for maps that you'd  
4 like to include, please get those to our staff.

5 Welcome, Mr. Dawson.

6 MR. DAWSON: Thank you. I have not yet  
7 turned in my handout. I will do that when I'm through  
8 speaking. Thank you.

9 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name.

10 MR. DAWSON: John, J-o-h-n, Dawson.  
11 D-a-w-s-o-n.

12 I've been involved in local government --  
13 township government, that is -- for about 16 years,  
14 and the reason I'm here today is to speak on the issue  
15 of townships. We have -- in addition to the township  
16 supervisor from Medina Township -- who I'm not  
17 speaking for, by the way -- I'm also a member of the  
18 Peoria County Township Officials Association and I'm  
19 also not speaking for them.

20 We are interested in seeing that  
21 townships, whenever possible, be avoided the division.  
22 We have one township in Peoria County right now that  
23 has three representatives and two senators, and it's  
24 very difficult when you're a township official to have

1 to deal with five different representatives from the  
2 state of Illinois.

3 So what I'm asking, as a representative of  
4 local township government, that, when you go through  
5 the very difficult process of redistricting, that you  
6 consider -- give consideration to the fact that we  
7 would like -- that I would like to see, recommend, and  
8 suggest the townships be kept together as part of a  
9 legislative district.

10 In the handout that you gave us early on  
11 when I came in, House Redistricting Committee, was an  
12 item listed. It's called Community of Interest about  
13 halfway down your sheet. "A group of people that has  
14 common political, social, religious, economic, or  
15 other similar interest." That to me is the exact  
16 definition of a township.

17 So, in conclusion, I would just like to  
18 say please keep townships in mind when you redistrict  
19 and also keep in mind your own handout about what a  
20 community of interest would entail.

21 Thank you.

22 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you for your  
23 comments.

24 Would the township with three

1 representatives and two senators be Limestone?

2 MR. DAWSON: It certainly would, and three  
3 of those are represented here at the table -- at your  
4 table.

5 REP. MAUTINO: They produce great baseball  
6 teams, by the way.

7 MR. DAWSON: Yes, they do.

8 REP. MAUTINO: Questions?

9 Thank you for your --

10 Mr. Rose.

11 REP. ROSE: Yeah. And, again, I hate to  
12 keep harping on this, but I assume you're probably a  
13 member of the Township Officials of Illinois?

14 MR. DAWSON: I am township -- Peoria  
15 County Township Official and also a member of the  
16 Township Officials of Illinois.

17 REP. ROSE: I would assume, for your  
18 organization -- your state organization, it would be  
19 important to have time to review any maps and  
20 understand how it would impact you. So you'd probably  
21 like to see them in advance.

22 MR. DAWSON: I can't speak for them  
23 officially, but just based on the information that I  
24 see coming through the network that they have through

1 the Internet process, it would be -- there's a clear  
2 indication to me that, yes, that would be their  
3 option, and they would prefer probably a two-week  
4 option or availability to look at the map before it's  
5 voted on or adopted.

6 REP. ROSE: Thanks.

7 REP. MAUTINO: Don Gronewold.

8 Mr. Gronewold, thank you so much for  
9 joining with us and thank you for your patience.

10 MR. DAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 REP. MAUTINO: Thank you much.

12 MR. GRONEWOLD: Thank you.

13 My name is Donald, D-o-n-a-l-d, Gronewold,  
14 G-r-o-n-e-w-o-l-d. Middle initial R.

15 Without taking any more of your time than  
16 what's necessary, because most the people that  
17 proceeded me today have said some of my comments, but  
18 I do want to address you --.

19 Well, first of all, let me tell you a  
20 little bit about myself, and I don't do that to  
21 impress you. But I have lived in Washington,  
22 Illinois -- that's in Tazewell County across the river  
23 here -- for 52 years. I was born in Peoria County.  
24 When I was six years old, my parents moved to Fulton

1 County. And when a business was available in  
2 Washington, I arranged some financing and bought it at  
3 the age of 27.

4 I'm involved in community affairs in our  
5 county and mainly in our city for a good period of  
6 time, about 25 years if you add them all up. I was on  
7 the city council for eight years. I was on the county  
8 board for two years, and I was mayor of the city of  
9 Washington for 12 years.

10 So I congratulate you for your time here  
11 and your patience, and I pray that you do a good job  
12 because I've been in your position on several things  
13 in the past that we had to make decisions that you had  
14 to think about for quite a while in order to come up  
15 with the right answer.

16 I will not deliberate on some of the  
17 things that have been said before, but I do want to  
18 impress with you a few things. It would be great to  
19 have transparency on this and have at least two weeks'  
20 notice for the people here as well as the rest of the  
21 citizens in Illinois to look at this map and see if  
22 they could help you or correct it any because mistakes  
23 can be made. I know not intentionally, but they can  
24 be made and very easily with a state of this size and



1 complexity.

2           Secondly, I would pray that you keep  
3 compaction as one of your main efforts. Our county,  
4 Tazewell County, has three different representatives  
5 in it. They're all great people. They do a good job.  
6 But I still would like to see our county compact to  
7 one. It would almost meet the requirements of  
8 population. We might have a take a little off of  
9 Woodford to the north or Macon the south. I don't  
10 think we can go east very far. But compaction in  
11 counties -- as well as Mr. Dawson said -- and  
12 townships is very important because we do have a lot  
13 of issues that instead of going down and seeing Keith  
14 or Mike or whoever we want to talk about it is a lot  
15 easier than talking to three or four different people.

16           So that is my main thoughts here today.  
17 Compact it as much as you can, Jehan, and I don't mean  
18 by just having a strip of a road going down and the  
19 road could meet up with someplace else like was done  
20 in the 17th Congressional District a few years ago. I  
21 don't know what the right word to add to that is  
22 except it's sad, pretty sad.

23           Thank you very much for your time.

24           REP. MAUTINO: Thank you very much for

1 your comments and for your patience and coming in to  
2 the hearing today.

3 Mr. Rose?

4 Okay. Thank you for your comments, and if  
5 you would, any copies of any statements, please leave  
6 with the clerk.

7 At this time I'd like to ask if there's  
8 anyone else seeking recognition. We wore you all  
9 down.

10 I really want to thank all of you who came  
11 in and spent the time today and gave us your opinions.

12 As we go forward on these -- on these  
13 meetings -- there are some additional hearings which  
14 will still be going on -- we will stick to the state  
15 and federal constitution as well as the federal Voting  
16 Rights Act. And I appreciate all the members putting  
17 in the amount of time that they have for these  
18 hearings.

19 So do we have any -- Representative, as  
20 long we're here in your district, would you like to  
21 make a close?

22 REP. GORDON: Certainly. Thank you,  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 I'd also first like to thank everyone for

1 coming out this evening.

2 I think that when this legislation, the  
3 2000 -- the 2010 Illinois Voting Rights legislation,  
4 was passed, I don't know if members of the General  
5 Assembly were sure if we were going to get the sort of  
6 participation that we've had here today in the Peoria  
7 County Courthouse; and we would not have -- we would  
8 not have been able to provide this sort of transparent  
9 process if it wasn't for you all taking two and a half  
10 hours out of your day and sitting down here and  
11 participating in this process.

12 So I'd like to thank you for taking the  
13 first initial step in this process. This is, again,  
14 I'd like to say, a first step, and I think this step  
15 is a very good first step in this process. The way  
16 that we draw maps now, it -- I don't believe in years  
17 past we had this -- we had this sort of dialogue, and  
18 I think that having citizens come out and speak to the  
19 issues and having the ability to introduce what they  
20 would like to see in their own districts in regards to  
21 a map is incredibly important.

22 We heard many things today in terms of  
23 preserving diversity in the district, restoring  
24 citizen confidence, having the ability to come back

1 and see a map. All of these things are incredibly  
2 important because we need to allow communities to have  
3 the proper representation, not only at the local  
4 level, not only the state level, but also the  
5 congressional level. And I think, as long as we have  
6 a vigorous debate such as the one we had here today, I  
7 do believe that we will have a fair map that all will  
8 be -- that all will be suitable to and that will  
9 provide a great voice on every level of government for  
10 the people.

11 So thank you so much for coming out this  
12 evening.

13 REP. MAUTINO: And the committee will  
14 recess to the call of the chair.

15 I want to thank all my friends for joining  
16 with us today. Thank you, ma'am, for -- to our  
17 recorder as well.

18 (Hearing adjourned at 6:30 P.M.)  
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